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John Daggett

A SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF ATTLEBOROUGH

FROM ITS SETTLEMENT TO THE DIVISION.

BY

JOHN DAGGETT.

Edited and Completed by His Daughter.

BOSTON:
PRESS OF SAMUEL USHER,
171 DEVONSHIRE STREET.
1894.

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PREFACE.

IN placing this historical work of my father's, in its more extended form, before his townspeople, some words of explanation are requisite. The delay in its appearance has been unavoidable because the task of bringing it to completion assumed much greater proportions than was anticipated. I had but little knowledge during his lifetime of the progress he had made toward perfecting his plan, and it was not until nearly a year had elapsed after his death that I was able to commence such an examination of his papers as was necessary to enable me to decide whether it would be possible to undertake myself the labor of completion and publication.

At first I thought a few months' time would suffice, as the preparations seemed to be quite complete; but this proved true of portions only which pertained to the ancient history of the town. Regarding the more modern times numerous scattered notes and suggestions were found, but frequently nothing whatever to guide me in trying to ascertain the author's ideas in certain lines, or to work out the same when a theme was given. I found no single page of fully prepared manuscript, but a copy of the former "Sketch," bound with as many blank as printed leaves, and upon them were corrections, additions, fresh items, etc. Beyond that scraps of paper containing facts, dates, references, etc., with now and again a few pages relating to some person or subject, requiring sometimes little or no change, at others partial or almost entire rewriting — all of which had to be arranged and rearranged again and again, as new links were added to the ever-lengthening chain, or new threads were brought to the almost endless weaving of the historical web.

The book is simply what it purports to be — a "sketch," not a complete history; such in detail would comprise several volumes. As events have transpired, it is no doubt well that it was not published before the division, as that forms a proper ending to the history of the original town. I hope it may also prove to be well that the longer delay brings its publication into this our bi-centennial year. Like the earlier sketch this is designed first of all for Attleborough people, wherever they may be, and in what it has fallen to my lot to finish I have endeavored to carry out this evident design of the author, by preserving many things of peculiar and personal interest to them.

I have been most generously assisted in my labors by those to whom I have applied for information or advice. I am much indebted to Mr. D. Hamilton Hurd, of Boston, the compiler, and Messrs. J. W. Lewis & Co., of Philadelphia, the publishers, of the "History of Bristol County," for their courteous permission to copy from that publication whatever might be of use to me; a privilege of which I have availed myself, especially outside the chapter therein which was prepared by my father; and I am indebted to Messrs. George H. Walker & Co., of Boston, Publishers, Engravers, Lithographers, etc., the publishers of the "Atlas of Attleborough Town," for a similar courtesy with regard to the historical sketches in that work. I am also indebted to officers of Brown University, Amherst College, and Yale University for searching records and furnishing full and correct lists of Attleborough graduates from their respective institutions; and to the officials in the Secretary's Library at the State House for their civilities in facilitating my researches there. I am under special obligations to Mr. Thomas A. Barden for many essential facts which he took considerable trouble to furnish; to the Rev. John Whitehill for the valuable information he supplied; to Mr. Edward R. Price for important aid; to Mr. Frank I. Babcock for clear statements regarding various matters, and much needed advice; and to Major Everett S. Horton for placing in my hands carefully compiled records relating to our soldiers of the Civil War, which I could not otherwise have obtained, and for useful information upon other subjects.

I wish to express thanks to those town officers who placed records — both ancient and modern — at my disposal, and aided me materially in my investigations; to the large number of business men who responded to my lists of questions; to the old soldiers who recalled interesting war experiences; to Mr. Everett B. Bliss for his gift of several pictures; to Mr. Samuel M. Holman for his interest and care in preparing the photographs from which nearly all of the illustrations were made; and to all the others, both ladies and gentlemen, — who number too many to be mentioned separately, and who would not desire such particular mention, — to whom I have applied for help, and who have bestowed it graciously to the extent of their ability, and in most abundant measure. From the "Chronicle," the "Advocate," and the "Sun" I have culled much of interest and importance, and it gives me pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to their columns in this manner.

Among the many agreeable experiences to be remembered, I recall with special pleasure the interest shown in my work by a little girl, who carefully gathered up numerous loosened ends of fact, bound them neatly together, and sent them to me far over the seas to an ancient liberty-loving city of mid-Europe; and in that same city, by one of those happy accidents never to be forgotten, and always to be gratefully appreciated, some very essential matter relating to the first white settler within our original borders — without which a chapter would have been sadly incomplete — came to me by the hands of a lover of all that pertains to early New England history, a courteous and cultivated Boston gentleman. My gratitude to all these my creditors is offered in the name of my father as well as my own, for in his name I asked for aid, and for his sake I am sure my requests, of whatever nature, were fully and freely answered.

The book had assumed almost double the size expected before the manuscript was placed in the printer's hands. If blame attaches to that fact, I willingly bear my portion thereof; but the number of pages is largely due to the fact that the good people of whom I have asked information have shown their love for their town by filling my hands to overflowing with those incidents and occurrences which form the contents of several of the following chapters, and which were of too much interest to be lightly thrown aside.

No one can regret more deeply than myself that the author did not live to fully accomplish his purposed work, for he of all men was best fitted to write worthily a history of our town. No one can realize more fully than myself the many deficiencies of my own share of the work; but I offer the result of my attempts to Attleborough people without hesitation, because I feel certain that in kindly remembrance of the author my many faults will meet with lenient criticism, and that my many failures will be generously overlooked by all those who understand my motives in essaying the completion of the book. Numerous errors will no doubt be found upon its pages — some probably avoidable, others perhaps not so; for all such I bespeak forbearance.

If this "Sketch" — so called by its author — finds favor and proves acceptable and useful to Attleborough people, at home or abroad, wherever it is destined to find its way, his long-cherished wish will be realized and my own highest desire fully satisfied. In writing these words of explanation and preface it affords me peculiar pleasure to date them not only from the town where the author lived and died, but from the very house where for a long generation he dwelt, and from the very corner of the room where during those years he constantly read and wrote, and where no doubt he often thought of those early days whose annals he so zealously investigated, and upon whose occurrences his fancy ever loved to dwell.

THE EDITOR.

ATTLEBOROUGH, July, 1894.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE AUTHOR.

HON. JOHN DAGGETT, the author of this work, was born in Attleborough, February 10, 1805, one of the seventh generation of his family in this country. The first of the name to emigrate from his native land was one John Doggett, who came over in Winthrop's fleet in 1630. His name is found on the list of applicants for admission as freeman, October 19, 1630, and he was among the first admitted, — No. 8, — May 18, 1631. He was a proprietor, and among the first settlers of Watertown, this State. That town was settled in 1630 and was for many years larger than Boston. Mr. Doggett's homestead there was adjoining Fresh Pond, where a hotel of that name now stands, and contained about fifteen acres. He had six lots and a grant of eighty acres. He seems to have been actively engaged with Governor Mayhew — then a resident of Watertown — in getting up a company to occupy Martha's Vineyard, "the island of which Governor Mayhew had purchased the grant," and about 1644 he went there in the company of the new governor, and, it is said, "was thus intimately associated with the Mayhews in the government of the colony, as indeed the Daggetts continued to be not only for some succeeding generations but down to the present day." Thomas Mayhew, "a merchant," was born in Southampton, England, in 1591. He came to this country and settled first in Medford, then removed to Watertown, and from there to Martha's Vineyard as its proprietor and governor. He died in 1681, six days before he was ninety. He had been a representative in this State, and was a preacher to the Indians for some thirty-three years. His first wife died in England; the second one was Grace, widow of Thomas Payne, of London. Two of his descendants were missionaries to the Indians and many of them have been prominent men. Of one of these, Thomas, a son, an interesting story is related. He graduated at Harvard College and prepared himself to be a missionary, going as such to the Vineyard in 1642, two years before his father took up a residence there. He was very successful as a teacher and preacher among those native people, and they became exceedingly attached to him. He finally decided to go to England to solicit funds with which to build a church and provide other things needed by his pupils, and in 1657 completed his arrangements for the voyage. The Indians regarded the ocean as a terrible monster, because it often swallowed up their friends and canoes when they ventured but a short distance from the land, and they were overwhelmed with fears for their beloved teacher when they learned that he was going so far away —

quite over this treacherous ocean. "On the day he was to leave, the Indians gathered at a point a few miles from Edgartown to bid him a tearful farewell. As he left them each Indian picked up a stone and placed it on a pile as a memento of the parting." The fears of the simple-minded savages were in this instance fully realized, for the ship in which Mr. Mayhew sailed was never heard from. The place of parting became a sacred one to them and their descendants, for, long after the last one who had seen Mr. Mayhew had died, "each Indian as he passed the sacred spot added a stone to the monumental cairn," whose ruins "mark the place of the sad parting to this day."

John Doggett settled at Edgartown. In 1641 and 1642 he had become interested in grants of land on the island, whose privileges the Mayhews shared with him and others, but "it does not appear that he moved directly to the Vineyard, but instead made his home for a time at the new settlement at Rehoboth," going from there to the Vineyard about 1648.[1] Who his first wife was is not known, but they had five children, all but the eldest of whom it is supposed were born in Watertown. Of the death of this wife there is no record. On August 29, 1667, he was married at Plymouth to one Bathsheba Pratt, a widow. He seems to have been in some measure identified with that town previously, and to have resided there most of the time after this marriage until his death, which occurred between the seventeenth and twenty-sixth of May, 1673.

One of his sons — Thomas — married, about 1657, Hannah, the daughter of Governor Mayhew by his second wife. She was born in Watertown. This Thomas was a man of some education certainly, for Governor Mayhew, in writing to John Winthrop, Jr., in speaking of him says: "My son Doggett, that hath more *language* than any other Englishman upon the Island, and is a considerable young man." Thomas died between the middle of March and the middle of September, 1691, and his wife Hannah, it is supposed, in 1722 or 1723.[2] Of him it is said he "called his name Daggett," but probably not "until near the close of his life." There seems to be no doubt that the English surname of this family was Doggett, and it continued to be so called for about fifty years after the emigration to this country, the first indications of the change in the manner of spelling being found in records on the Vineyard relating to John the 2d, and others of the name, dated 1675 and 1677.

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[1] See "History of the Doggett-Daggett Family," by Samuel B. Doggett, of Boston, published 1894. To this work the editor is indebted for several items of information contained in the few paragraphs relating to the early ancestors of the author. They have necessitated some few changes in what had been written from the data collected by him many years ago, though those were in the main correct. The source of information is here acknowledged for all these facts and changes.

[2] There seems to be no positive record of her death, but her will was proved in February, 1722-23. She married again, her second husband being Captain Samuel Smith, of Edgartown. He survived her, and it is said lived to be 103 years old.

John, son of Thomas and Hannah, was probably born in Edgartown in 1662. He married on the Island, and his wife's first name was Sarah. Of her other name nothing positive is known, one account declaring her to be the daughter of Isaac Norton, and another that there is no certainty as to who she was. This couple settled in Chilmark, and from there came to this town, their entire family of nine children also settling here. Prudence is mentioned as the residence of John Daggett, and that was a portion of Tisbury, the records speaking of it as "the mannour of Tisbury, commonly called Chilmark." This was the seat of the Mayhews, and is now a part of the town of Tisbury. He owned property there which it is said he sold in 1711 for £300, a considerable sum in those days and the equivalent of a much greater one at the present time. During that same year he bought the Woodcock Garrison House and several hundred acres of land in this town. Upon a record bearing date June 10, 1711, Mayhew Daggett, his oldest son, is named as "of Attleboro'." It would seem, therefore, that he preceded his father in removing to this town, the latter, with his family, coming "between October 17, 1711, and December 24, 1712." He at once became an innkeeper in the old Garrison house, "and soon became interested in town and church affairs. His lands being located on the road from Boston to Rhode Island, and his tavern a convenient stopping-place en route, he soon became well known, not only to the people of Attleborough, but to all travelers between Boston and Rhode Island." He became a deacon, and was a representative in 1720 to the General Court. In 1722 he sold his inn property and two years later, on September 7, 1724, he died. He was buried in the old "Hatch burying ground."

Ebenezer, son of Deacon John, was born on the Vineyard in 1690. November 9, 1721, he married, in this town, Mary, daughter of Penticost Blackinton, and about that time he bought the farm on the East Bay Road, leading from Bristol and Providence to the Bay, Boston — now known as the "old Daggett place." He is spoken of as "husbandman," "tanner," and "inn-holder." About the time of his marriage he built the house there which, with some changes, is still standing. The old-fashioned summer beams extend through the two large main rooms, and the immense chimney still occupies its original space in the centre of the building. It must be one of the oldest dwelling-houses in town. The old inn sign — a curious relic of olden times — is still in existence. It is of considerable weight and size and was elaborately painted. The representations of the great royal crown of England, in once glowing but now fast-fading colors, are still discernible, and the date of 1725 is still traceable on one side. It ceased a century and a half ago to swing on its rusty hinges before the hostelry door, where it creakingly announced comfort and cheer to mailcoach traveler, or weary wayfarer, its life of bustling activity changed to one of quiet reminiscence in the big lonely garret of the old house. Whose eyes have scanned its

brilliant painting in colonial days no one is left to tell us, and of the guests it invited to refreshment or repose the voice of time is silent. What changes has Attleborough seen since it first swung merrily to the breeze! — from four hundred people to four times that number of thousands; from almost a wilderness, with few and lonesome roads and here and there a rude and roughly built dwelling with its patch of clearing, to busy villages, smiling. fertile farms, beautiful houses, numberless cheerful roads, and lightning railways. Would that its long silence might be broken! Would that it could voice for us the incidents of those long-dead intervening years!

Ebenezer Daggett died in 1740. His son was John, the famous Revolutionary officer, and Ebenezer, his son, was the father of the subject of this sketch.

The full descent is as follows: John, the English emigrant; Thomas, second son and child; John, third son and child — removed from the Vineyard to Attleborough; Ebenezer, second son and child; John, first son and second child; Ebenezer, fourth son and sixth child. The last named married Sally Maxcy, of North Attleborough, September 3, 1797. She was born in November, 1778, the daughter of Benjamin Maxcy by his second wife, Amy Ide, of this town.

A story of considerable romantic interest is attached to the first of that name who came to this country. He is said to have been one Alexander Maxcy, son of a gentleman of rank and wealth in England. He was brought up on his father's estate in the country, and during his boyhood his constant playmate was the pretty daughter of the lodge-keeper. No danger of serious consequences was anticipated, and the children were allowed the utmost freedom of companionship. The frequent result in such cases, however, followed here: the boy and girl fell in love with each other, both very naturally forgetting the differences in their social positions, and as the former approached manhood he announced his intention of marrying his little friend. This idea, of course, met with instant and entire disapproval on the part of his parents, and he was at once dispatched to school and college, with the expectation that new scenes and occupations would speedily dispel the unfortunate illusion. In due time the young man returned to his home, and, to the dismay of his family, more than ever determined to carry out his purpose and wed the woman of his choice, regardless of rank or position. The usual quarrel ensued; the father would not yield and give his consent to the union, the son would not yield and promise to give it up, nor would he remain at home if he must forfeit his wished-for bride; so he ran away, and presently found passage to America. How he employed himself here is not stated, but some time after his arrival an advertisement happened to meet his eyes, which stated that if he would go to a certain place in Boston, something to his great advantage would there be communicated to him. His curiosity was sufficiently aroused to prompt him to make his appearance at the specified

place, and he found that a vessel had been sent out for him. It was thoroughly and completely equipped in every way, and contained many costly personal gifts in the line of handsome apparel, etc., and he was entreated to take the entire command of everything and return to his home. This young Maxcy promptly declined to do, finding the freedom and independence of this new country more congenial to his self-reliant nature than the conventional thraldom of the old.

He finally came to this region — possibly to Wrentham, since this tradition has been preserved among descendants who lived in that town — and found occupation of some kind. The first love appears at length to have been forgotten, or at least supplanted, for in due time he fell in love again, this time with the daughter of some worthy citizen in his vicinity. Others also aspired to her hand, for she was comely, and her father "well to do." One of these suitors, older and already "forehanded" far beyond our hero, was approved by the father. The story runs that on a certain evening the elder swain was expected to make a visit upon the maiden for the purpose of declaring his sentiments. Maxcy, informed of this, — perhaps by the fair maiden herself, for we may be assured he had long before ascertained the state of her mind and heart upon the important question, — took occasion to present himself for a visit at the same time. He quietly but determinedly outstayed the elder man, and furthermore presented his own case to the father in such bold and manly fashion that he won it in spite of former obstacles and became the accepted lover, the father's consent thereto making the young people happy then and there. This account has been handed down in one branch of the family at least, but unfortunately no names but that of the hero have been preserved. Much or little of it may be true, but the whole of the determined independent spirit which it ascribes to the founder of the family may be accepted unquestionably, for the same spirit has been inherited by many of the descendants who have followed him here, and it is by no means wholly dissipated up to the present time.

Ebenezer Daggett resided always upon the place purchased by his grandfather, and there in the old house his twelve children were born. Of the eight who lived to reach maturity, John was oldest son and second child. Like most of our town boys of his time he was brought up in the occupation of his father. He, no doubt, performed his allotted share of the lighter farm work thoroughly and conscientiously, — as his nature would prompt him to do, — but taking no pleasure in the actual labor. He always, however, evinced a decided fondness for farming theoretically, and for many years he made it an avocation. He enjoyed practical work in that line occasionally, but his lameness prevented anything more than a very slight indulgence in personal application to it. As a child he was quiet and reserved, and though healthy and strong, never had any special fondness for rough sports and games or for indulging in boyish pranks and frolics. He early developed a

quickness in learning and an aptitude for study, and he always had an unusually vigorous and retentive memory.

This latter was manifested in a remarkable manner at a very early age, as is shown by the following incident. When he was three or four years old, instead of amusing himself with playthings, he frequently wanted to sit down and sew. Upon one occasion, when he sat in his little armchair busily engaged in taking stitches, he had an experience like that which often befalls even adepts in the art — his work "plagued him," and presently he called to his mother to come to his assistance. His little soul was so vexed within him that he was moved to express his opinion of the sewing with a very short but very forcible word. The mother was surprised and shocked to hear an oath from those baby lips, and as she set matters right read him a lesson upon the wickedness of the word and his own exceeding naughtiness it using it, bidding him never to say it again. All went smoothly for a while, but, alas! the thread, as thread will, knotted and tangled and broke again, and again the childish wrath waxed hot. The moral lesson was speedily forgotten in the all-absorbing anger, for, as he called a second time for assistance, he emphatically doubled his former forcible expression. A scream of horror burst from the lips of the dismayed mother, and a long and very serious conversation followed this second indulgence in impious phrases, conducted with severe solemnity on the part of the elder, and with, no doubt, a sober and decorous gravity on the part of the younger. A tract upon the use of profane language was purchased, and read so often to the innocent little sinner that he soon learned it by heart. The real delinquent in the case was one of the town's poor, a boarder at the house of Mr. Daggett, then one of the selectmen, and his was the language which had been caught and made use of by the child. That he, young as he was, understood the lessons taught him by his mother, and the tract, is shown by the fact that frequently, when the day's work was done and "Old Sweet" sat upon the kitchen settle, smoking his evening pipe, he would clamber up, tract in hand, — though he could not read a word and generally held it upside down, — and standing by the old man's side he would solemnly say off its contents — let us hope to the aged reprobate's repentance and improvement.

This story was often told by the mother, in her later years, at family gatherings. Her manner was inimitable, and convulsive laughter on the part of every listener accompanied each recital, no matter how oft repeated, and no one joined in it more heartily than the hero of the tale himself. She almost always ended her vivid description in words like these: "And that is the only time I ever heard John swear." It probably was the only time in his life, for his language was always characterized by simplicity and refinement. He rarely indulged in extravagant epithets, and he never made use of slang phrases, no matter how apt or expressive. Another instance of the power of his youthful memory was shown at a "spelling-match" held

in the little old red schoolhouse, still standing, — though somewhat enlarged and differently clothed; — in New Boston. Upon that occasion, when he was perhaps eight or ten years old, he spelled seven hundred words without missing one, and, needless to say, took and held first place. In after years his memory in this direction never failed him. His children always found him the equal of the dictionary in telling them how to spell words, and often much clearer in explaining or simplifying definitions to suit their childish capacities.

The New Boston district school was his "hall of learning" during his early boyhood. At one time, he himself says, he attended the classical school at South Attleborough, kept by a Mr. Wheaton, but at what date or for how long a time is not known. Very naturally in the then state of society in the sparsely settled districts, the decision in favor of giving to a boy a "classical" or college education was frequently the result of what we call "accident" or "chance," and a sad misfortune was the chance in Mr. Daggett's case. It never ceased to be a trial to him, though, as it totally changed his entire expected course of existence, it resulted in giving him a higher, and very probably a happier, life in many respects, one which was certainly more congenial to his nature than almost any other could have been, and which was therefore perhaps more useful to his fellow men.

When a lad of fourteen he was seized with a serious illness, which was long continued and attended with most unfavorable results. The disease finally settled in one of his lower limbs, and physicians pronounced amputation the only means for saving his life. At first his mother, proud of the manly beauty of her promising boy, her oldest son, for the moment refused her consent to the proposed operation, feeling almost that death was preferable to the process of maiming his body, and, it would seem, his entire life. Such a feeling can be well understood in view of the dreadful thing amputation then was; but of course she finally yielded her consent. The time required for such an operation was perhaps not much longer then than now; but to-day powerful anæsthetics place the patient beyond the realization of suffering, and under their influence the shock to the system is reduced to a minimum amount. Then ether and chloroform were unknown, and in this case not even a drop of liquor was given to dull the sensibilities; but, with his strength greatly reduced by months of severe suffering, the boy was strapped to his bed, and with only a handkerchief held before his eyes he endured the keen horrors of the surgeon's knife. The remembrance of that half-hour of agony was so terrible to him that he rarely if ever referred to it, and he never told the feelings he experienced during the operation; nor did the older sister, who was in and out of the room ministering to him as best as she could, ever mention any details but once or twice, and then only in response to earnest questionings.

After the double strain upon the system of protracted illness and the loss

of a limb, progress toward recovery was slow and tedious; but at length health was completely restored. Then very naturally the question as to the best way of providing for the boy's entire future arose, and the only answer possible was to give him a liberal education, and so prepare him to earn with his mind the livelihood his body would in great measure be unfitted to procure. Such a decision coincided with his desires, and it was a great pleasure both to anticipate and to realize the gratification of his literary tastes.

College life then differed in very many respects from that life now. Stage coaches were the only public modes of conveyance, a carpet-bag contained the young man's personal outfit, and college rooms were plain and bare, by no means the luxurious and often artistic apartments of the present day. It was the almost universal custom for students to eat in "Commons." They were largely farmers' sons, and ready money would not be easily obtained for the payment of all necessary bills, so the home woodlot supplied the log for the study fire, and many a generous store of good things from the home farm and kitchen accompanied the loads of wood, brought to the college very probably by the father himself, who took the opportunities the carrying of such supplies afforded to see personally how his boy was "getting on in the ways of learning." Upon the mother in those times devolved the preparation of the entire wardrobe, for even "suits" were then homemade, and in the case of which we write all that proud and loving heart could suggest and capable and willing hands perform was done to make the physical loss and inconvenience less deeply felt.

Mr. Daggett fitted for college at Day's Academy in Wrentham, and later in the study of Rev. Alvan Cobb, of Taunton. In September, 1822, at the age of seventeen, he entered Brown University, graduating with high honors — third or fourth in his class — in 1826. The life of a real student thoroughly suited him, and his college years were very happy ones. Their experiences were among the most cherished of his after life, and were always recalled with great satisfaction, especially on commencement anniversaries, when, within the loved and honored walls or under the same old trees, he met surviving classmates and renewed the friendships formed there in the years gone by. Tales of fun and joke were told, professors' whims or peculiarities recollected and imitated, or their lessons of wisdom and good counsel repeated, and, sober, gray-haired men, he and his comrades lived over together those pleasant, youthful days. There was never a son of Brown who possessed a deeper or more lasting love for his Alma Mater than Mr. Daggett. His fidelity never wavered and he grew more zealous in his interest with his growing years. He was proud of the record of her great men, and of his own connection with the institution. He allowed nothing to keep him from attending each commencement as it recurred, and was present literally at every such celebration from the time he entered college until and including

the year of his death — sixty-four in number — a fact which can be recorded of no other graduate.

Having chosen the law as his profession, he at once upon graduating commenced its study in the office of Hon. Joseph L. Tillinghast, of Providence, a distinguished member of the Rhode Island bar and a member of Congress. Here he remained about a year. He continued these studies in the office of Hon. J. J. Fiske, of Wrentham, for the same length of time, and the third year of his course in this department he attended the lectures of Hon. Theron Metcalf, of Dedham. He was admitted to the bar in that town in December, 1829, and at once commenced the practice of his profession, opening an office in East Attleborough in January, 1830. He continued to practise law in his native town throughout his entire life, with the exception of the two years, 1833 and 1834, when he held the position of editor of the *Dedham Patriot*, and resided in that town.

In 1836, at the age of thirty-one, he was elected to the State Legislature for the first time, and his townsmen paid him the compliment of reëlecting him for the two succeeding terms. He was a member of the judiciary committee in 1837, and chairman of the committee on railways in 1839. He opposed with all his powers the plan of running the Boston & Providence Railroad through the centre of East Attleborough, not only because the proposed route necessitated the removal of many bodies from that portion of the graveyard upon which the track trespassed, but because he considered, and so argued, that the heart of a growing village was an inappropriate situation for railroad tracks and a depot with its necessary surroundings. He foresaw, as did many others, that as the village increased many inconveniences would arise, and even serious accidents would be almost certain to ensue. He urged the propriety of taking a projected line over the meadows in the rear of the Holman homestead, bringing many excellent arguments to bear upon the question; but all efforts were in vain, the idea being at that time prevalent that railroads must as far as possible be built in straight lines. As was predicted, great trouble has followed and indeed continues to follow upon the laying of the tracks through the village-centre, and it was long ago acknowledged by the railroad company that Mr. Daggett was right, and that his desired line would have been better for all parties concerned.

The following testimonials were presented to him at about the time of which we are now writing, and would seem to have been called forth in connection with his first candidacy for public office outside his native town.

DEDHAM, May 27, 1836.

This certifies that John Daggett, Esq., of Attleborough, pursued the study of law in my office during the year next preceding his admission to the bar — that he has since practised law in the County of Bristol, with honor and probity, and is, in my estimation, entirely worthy of the confidence of the public and of any individuals who may entrust to him the management of business which he will undertake to superintend. I might truly say much more — and my disposition would lead to a fuller statement of Mr. Daggett's character and habits. But I am

restrained by a belief that where he is known, or shall become known, his deportment and talents will recommend him much more effectually than any account that can be given by another. THERON METCALF.

BOSTON, May 30, 1836.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Daggett personally for several years, and it gives me pleasure to say that, so far as my knowledge extends, I believe him worthy of the very high character given to him by Mr. Metcalf as above. HORACE MANN.

These are words of high praise, but only such as were well deserved by Mr. Daggett both at that early period of his life and ever after, for his course as a man commanded the respect of all who knew him, and as a lawyer the confidence of all who employed him.

He began very early to take an active interest in the cause of common-school education in this town — at or about the time when Horace Mann was secretary of the Board of Education and rendered such distinguished services not only to Massachusetts but to the country. Mr. Daggett was a member of the school committee in town for fully fifteen years, and during the greater part of that time was its chairman. He labored earnestly and conscientiously in this direction, because he fully comprehended the importance of free and general education to the highest success of a republican form of government. He lived long enough to see marvelous improvements in this direction throughout the entire land, and witnessed with great satisfaction the fulfillment of many of his wishes for advancement in the public schools of his own town. He was for many years a leading man in his parish, that of the Second Precinct, and for a number of years the chairman of its committee — this latter at a time when an unusual amount of responsibility fell upon the committee, both financially and in other directions.

On June 18, 1840, he was married in Sutton, this State, to Miss Nancy McClellan Boomer, a daughter of Rev. Job B. Boomer, then a resident of that town, where she was born, September 29, 1819. They had seven children, five of whom died in infancy or at an early age. The two surviving are John Mayhew Daggett, a resident of Marianna, Ark., and Amelia Maxcy Daggett (Mrs. George St. John Sheffield), now a resident of Attleborough. Up to the time of his marriage Mr. Daggett resided with his family at the old homestead, and continued to do so for perhaps a year thereafter. He then removed to the village, and for a few years lived in the two-tenement house which stood, until within a comparatively recent date, between "the long block" and the residence of the late William M. Fisher, on North Main Street, and which now stands directly back of that site, having been moved to make place for Crandall's Block. The estate of Mr. A. A. Richardson, the founder of the school fund, came into his hands to settle, and about 1844 a farm on the "old post road," a mile from the village, being a portion of this estate, was put up by him, as executor, for sale at public auction. Bidding was by no means brisk, and to make a beginning in that direction Mr. Daggett himself made an offer, but with neither desire nor intention

to purchase. Not another bidding voice was raised, and the farm was consequently "struck off" to him. He therefore took up his residence there, and also removed his office from the village.

He occupied the place for about thirty years, becoming deeply attached to it, and he spoke of those years as the happiest of his life. There six of his seven children were born, and there four of them died. The freedom and independence of life on a farm were very agreeable to him, and he took much pleasure in superintending such work as he carried on upon his place, so far as the time not occupied by his professional duties permitted. He was greatly interested in fruit-growing, and took special satisfaction each year in watching the growth of his vegetable garden. During his long residence he made many changes and improvements, particularly in the house, which was a pleasant and comfortable home, and both he and his wife were always delighted to greet the many guests who crossed their threshold. Under their reign the house was a most hospitable one. In our homely but expressive New England phrase, "the latchstring was always out." Relatives, friends, and acquaintances were cordially welcomed, and in that sincere and hearty way which made them feel perfectly at home; young people made merry as they willed beneath the venerable roof, or about the entire place, and many large social gatherings of young and old together have been held within the time-honored walls of their cheerful dwelling. During a score or more of years this house vied with the Holmans' in its pleasing, kindly hospitality, and there was a lifelong intimacy between the heads of the two households. In former days the agreeable duty of entertaining lecturers from abroad devolved upon Mr. Daggett more frequently perhaps than upon anyone else, and in this way he added to his long list of acquaintances among prominent people. His cultured mind and courteous manners eminently fitted him to assume the prominent social position in town which he held for many years. Clergymen were especially welcomed in this family, and whenever the village church was without a settled pastor those who came to supply the pulpit were often guests at this old farmhouse fireside, and various pleasant friendships were thus formed.

In 1850 Mr. Daggett was again called upon to represent his town in the Legislature, and this time in the Senate. He was appointed a member of the Valuation Board, whose session occupied about four months of that year, at the State House. In 1852 he was appointed "Register of Probate and Insolvency for Bristol County," by Governor Clifford, and twice afterwards elected by the people to the same office for terms of four years each, thus continuing in the office for eleven years. This necessitated his traveling back and forth to Taunton nearly every day for that length of time, and, notwithstanding the distance of his house from the depot, the difficulty of driving over bad roads and through severe storms, the delays relating to business in town or home work, and, most of all, the many inconveniences

attending his lameness, he never lost a train. Once or twice he was assisted in getting on the cars just starting, and once or twice, seeing his carriage near, the engineer obligingly delayed starting his engine for a few seconds; but so exact was he that he was almost always very punctual. He was as conscientious in the position of register as in every other which he occupied, and careful and exact in the work of recording. He very rarely remained away from Taunton an entire day for his own rest or pleasure, and if business required his presence elsewhere for a time, the preceding days, or those following, were made longer, so that his every duty in the office there was strictly performed. Though he carried on various kinds of work, and though that in his profession was often both wearisome and exhausting physically and mentally, the regular rest of a summer vacation time never came to him, and he but infrequently left home for more than a day for any purpose other than the better accomplishment of work in which he might be engaged. He could labor hard and uninterruptedly for many years, preserving health of body and mind to a good old age, partly, no doubt, because his lines were cast in a country town, and not in the midst of the all-absorbing activity of a great city, and partly because his generation had not fortunately reached the extreme of the rush and hurry of the present time, when it would seem that "every man's hand is against his neighbor," and competition in all occupations, professional or otherwise, makes the gaining of a livelihood a fight on the part of each and every man against the world.

During the civil war Mr. Daggett took a very active part in the patriotic work of the town. Precluded both by age and physical inability from personal service in the army, he nevertheless worked devotedly and unceasingly in every other way that was possible. His voice and pen were busy, and he gave freely, so far as he was able, toward forwarding every movement requiring money to accomplish its purpose. He was one of the leaders in all the many war meetings held, and foremost in all patriotic assemblies. He was continually appointed chairman of such meetings; he drafted resolutions, prepared and delivered numerous speeches, and faithfully performed the varied and onerous duties of a prominent and loyal citizen in the noble work done by Attleborough during those years of difficulty and danger to the government and the country. In 1866 he again represented the town in the Legislature, this time in the lower branch, and with this service his public political career ceased.

Some ten or twelve years before his death he removed again to the village of Attleborough and opened an office in his residence there, on Bank Street. He continued to practise his profession literally until the hand of death was upon him, for he did not wholly lay aside the harness of work until the very last day of his life. Had Mr. Daggett done no more work than that of which an outline has been given, his life would have been a busy and industrious one; but beyond the performance of his many public and professional

duties he found time for varied and extensive literary and historical research. He was a thorough and devoted antiquarian, and he embraced with avidity every opportunity for obtaining facts relating to the early history not only of his native town and its inhabitants, but of other towns in the State. Indeed, every historical fact bearing upon the early history of New England and of its inhabitants, even before they left their native shores, was full of interest to him, and he was so careful and exact in verifying all items that came to his notice that he became reliable authority on such matters. His fondness for research of this nature commenced with his early youth, possibly, indeed during the years of his childhood, for at the family fireside he must then have listened to many tales of the days of the Revolution, in which his grandfather took so conspicuous a part, or to stories of Indian adventure and attack, made the more impressive from the fact that a sort of mongrel remnant of some savage tribe once lived on his homestead farm.

Having occasion, some time in 1830, to prepare a lecture to be delivered before the Attleborough Lyceum, — when he was about twenty-five, — he chose for his theme the early history of his town. This developed so decided an interest in that subject that he was induced to enlarge upon the contents of his address and prepare it for publication in book form. Four years later he published his "Sketch of the History of Attleborough," of which the following pages are an enlargement and continuation. He never wholly relinquished inquiries in the line of this publication, but followed up every clew he obtained which promised further information upon the subject, corresponding with people in almost every part of this country, and even to some extent in England. In the course of years great store of interesting matter was collected, and many rare and valuable books, manuscripts, and papers came into his possession. For a long period he cherished the idea of publishing another and more complete edition of his early "Sketch," and quite a number of years before his death he began regular and continuous work in the carrying out of this plan. Most unfortunately he was unable to accomplish his purpose, for death called him from his labors ere this ever-increasing task was completed. Meanwhile he prepared a lengthy sketch of the town history, chiefly copied from his own publication, for the "History of Bristol County," and by his suggestions and advice rendered valuable aid to the compiler of that work. He prepared other local historical sketches, and frequently gave material assistance to persons engaged in similar occupations elsewhere.

After the death of Dr. Samuel B. Parris, a young man of rare intellectual abilities and attainments and a physician of great promise, who settled in this town, Mr. Daggett made a collection of his writings, which were quite numerous. From these he made selections which he published, together with a memoir of their author, which he wrote. This little book was entitled

"Parris' Remains." Mr. Daggett also wrote for some years in the editorial line while in charge of a newspaper, and also during his earlier years many short poems, displaying in that direction some considerable talent. A number of these appeared as special contributions to the *Dedham Patriot*, the paper he at one time edited. None of these were found, but among his papers a copy of the *Old Colony Memorial*, dated October 17, 1829, was discovered, in which the following poem appeared: —

[*For the Memorial.*]

Maid of the dark eye and raven locks,
Meet me alone where waters glide,
Whose gentle stream rolls ceaseless on,
And roam with me its grassy side.

Meet me beneath the shady grove,
Where stranger's foot may never tread;
A spot which kindred hearts may love —
When spring its robe of green has spread.

Meet me beneath the moon's pale beam;
Gaze on its soft and vestal light,
Whose pensive, ling'ring smile might seem
To woo the cold embrace of night.

Meet me beneath the evening skies,
When stars are glowing brightly there,
As if a thousand heavenly eyes
Were smiling o'er a scene so fair.

Yes, — far away from human haunts, —
No curtained halls our vows shall hear,
But the pure heaven's bright expanse,
And the sweet moon's list'ning ear.

None but the shades of the lone grove,
And where the riv'let steals its way,
Where the spirits of nature rove,
And breathe their wild but sweetest lay.

'T is fit that love so deep as ours
Be told in scenes where nature dwells,
Mid blooming vales and shady bowers,
Mid Muses' haunts and fairy spells.

Oh! by that stream which ceaseless flows,
That grove which spring revives forever —
That moon which constant wanes and grows —
I'll vow that I will love thee ever!

In 1831, the fifty-fifth anniversary of American Independence was celebrated in town, and this reference may possibly recall that special occasion to the remembrance of a few people still living. The public exercises were held in the Second Congregational Church, and the program states that Rev. Mr. Ferguson offered the prayer, Dr. Phineas Savery read the Declaration of Independence, and the writer of this book delivered the

oration. Several appropriate pieces were sung and the following ode, composed for the occasion by the writer (Mr. Daggett), was also sung: —

Hail! welcome day of Freedom's birth,
The day of glory to the free!
We'll praise our fathers' deeds of worth,
While grateful hearts shall welcome thee.

Oh, let our thanks arise to those
Who for our country bled or died;
Who met on battlefields our foes,
And, glorious, triumphed o'er their pride.

Let praise ascend in noblest strains
To those who stood on Bunker's height,
Who bled on Trenton's gory plains,
Or died in Monmouth's fatal fight.

And now to those who nobly bleed
In distant lands for Freedom's right,
Oh, grant, kind heaven, the victor's meed,
And round them spread fair Freedom's light.

Rejoice, ye sons of Liberty!
The nations spurn the tyrants' chains;
Behold the banners of the free
On Gallia's hills and Belgium's plains.

Again the sons of Poland rise,
Behold their ancient banners fly!
They've nobly sworn, by earth and skies,
They'll "freemen live or freemen die."

Our fathers' God, accept our lay,
For all our nation's blessings given,
While here, on Freedom's hallowed day,
We raise our joyful songs to heaven!

Mr. Daggett was, during the course of his life, frequently called upon to prepare and deliver addresses before various organizations, and upon occasions of public celebration, both at home and abroad. The position of toastmaster was one he filled admirably, and one which for many years he was oftener called upon to occupy than any person in town. He was always happy in the selection of matter, and acceptable in his manner of presenting toasts, and especially apt in his responses to those of others, for he was quick and witty, and his large fund of general information made him an interesting speaker no matter what the subject might be. He was a very extensive reader, and the amount of time he always found to devote to this pleasurable occupation was remarkable considering how much he was obliged to employ in the other interests of his life. His favorite studies while in college were belles-lettres and the classics, and he always to some extent kept up his Greek, of which language he was particularly fond. His tastes, therefore, led him naturally to prefer historical and poetical works, and in the former line he had perhaps read as much as any man in his generation.

This did not prevent his informing himself intelligently upon scientific and practical matters, and upon the varied questions and interests of the day. He read rapidly, but was able to digest and retain what he read, and thus his mind became stored with a great amount of entertaining and useful knowledge, which he was able to impart agreeably to those who conversed with him. He was always a favorite in society, both with old and young, for he had the happy faculty of adapting himself for the time being to the ages or attainments of those persons with whom he might accidentally be thrown. He enjoyed, perhaps more than all else, conversing with guests at his own fireside, and after advancing years compelled him in large measure to relinquish public duties and outside society he was especially gratified when friends and neighbors "dropped in" after the pleasant country fashion for a social chat. One of his near neighbors during the latter years of his life used often to say: "I blame myself much that I do not for my own sake oftener spend an hour in Mr. Daggett's company, for his conversation on every subject is very entertaining, and I always learn from him something new and interesting."

Mr. Daggett lived a life of marked temperance, not in eating and drinking alone, but in all things; and in that way only, with his impaired vitality, did he continue to maintain the uniform good health which enabled him to accomplish so much work with so much ease. He was extremely regular and methodical in many of his ways. One thing which shows this was his habit of stepping out on the piazza of his house every morning at a few minutes past seven o'clock to look at the thermometer. He used to say laughingly that he could not tell anything about the weather, or whether he himself was cold or warm, until he had consulted that little instrument of advice. Be the weather or the season what it might, he always put on a hat — usually a tall one of somewhat ancient style and by no means in the highest state of preservation — to perform this ceremony. For years, neighbors "across the way" witnessed this daily occurrence from their breakfast table, always sure, as it recurred, of the exact hour. For a long time after his death they found themselves again and again, at the accustomed hour, looking over the street for the familiar form, and among the many little things which went to make up a pleasant daily intercourse between the two families they missed this act with its oft-given friendly nod of greeting to themselves most of all.

Mr. Daggett never used tobacco in any form. He had one experience with the weed, which he occasionally related, and which in its effects was similar to the earlier one with profanity. When quite a lad his father upon one occasion sent him to bring the regular supply to one of the paupers then at the farm. It occurred to him that what seemed enjoyable to an old man might be equally so to a younger, and he tried a generous mouthful. The severe and very disagreeable attack of illness which speedily followed effectually cured him of any desire to repeat the experiment, and he never

attempted to smoke. He was a firm believer in the real temperance cause. He did not in any way set himself up as a reformer in this direction, but he was a thoroughly consistent temperance man. He frankly acknowledged he had a fondness for the taste of wines and liquors, and that their moderate use would give him pleasure and produce beneficial results; but realizing the possibility of danger to many from even moderate indulgence, he habitually abstained from the use of all intoxicants. The highest motive — that of principle — guided him in this as in other things. He had, however, very little to say about his principles — he never preached about them, never yielded to that mistaken sense of duty which prompts dictation to others, but contented himself with simply practising what he believed to be right, and he was a shining example of the truth of the saying that "a life of moderation in all things is the highest type of life," and one whose influence for good must be widely felt.

He was a very reserved man in some respects, and he rarely gave utterance to the most profound feelings of his nature. On the subject of personal religion, therefore, he did not often speak, though that he felt deeply there can be no doubt. His life was guided by the highest principles of morality and rectitude. He was always a constant attendant upon public worship, and an attentive listener to the preachers whom he heard, thus setting a good example to many who professed more than he did. This regularity in attending divine service was broken up only during the very last part of his life, for when he became unable without extreme physical exertion to walk from his house to the centre of the village, a thoughtful friend called Sabbath after Sabbath at his door with a carriage and took him to and from the meetinghouse. He contributed freely as much as, and sometimes more than, he could afford toward the support of the church which he attended — the Second Congregational — and toward religious and other charitable objects, but he never became a church member. None the less was his the life of a good man, and one of his pastors has said: "I consider him one of the Christians outside of the church."

The study of law in itself, and its practice in certain branches, was agreeable to Mr. Daggett, and in these directions he was successful. His reputation as a professional man was spotless and he well merited the high compliment paid him by a fellow alumnus upon a certain commencement anniversary. This gentleman said in his after-dinner speech that among her lawyer sons Brown had one of whom she had just cause to be unusually proud, for, said he, "He is an honest lawyer, and he never told a lie." He was considered an excellent consulting lawyer, and his discretion and probity were unquestioned. He never acted in criminal cases, and accepted only such as seemed to him to have right and justice to recommend them. He ranked among the best of lawyers, because he could rise above the question of personal aggrandizement and emoluments and consider primarily the advantage

of his clients. It was always his advice to people, whenever such a course was possible, to settle cases by arbitration and to avoid litigation. By his good judgment and wise and conciliatory counsel he often accomplished the settlement of cases in this friendly manner, when the majority of lawyers perhaps could not have done so, thus saving the contending parties much time and money and infinite worry and trouble. The confidence reposed in his unprejudiced judgment was so strong that he was more than once consulted by both parties to contests. He seemed capable of comprehending all sides of questions connected with his profession, and to form unbiased opinions, and he could, therefore, give good advice to both parties without betraying the confidences of either side. In this manner, no doubt, he effected many settlements in the manner mentioned — by arbitration.

Those cases which involved questions of ancient law, and the necessity for research among old records, always gave him great pleasure to work up and try, and his preparations were made with nicety and exactness. One case of this kind is recalled, the gaining of which gave him peculiar satisfaction. It involved the question of a public right-of-way in a footpath crossing a certain field near the Falls village, and the opposing council was a lifelong and intimate friend. Mr. Daggett took the ground that time and precedent had established the public's right to the use of the path, and that the owner of the field had no right to close it. The opposing friends had lengthy discussions upon this matter in Mr. Daggett's office, but, needless to say to any who knew the two gentlemen, neither could convince the other that he was wrong. In due time the case came to trial. Mr. Daggett's proof of his opinion was based largely upon the fact that the old laws of Massachusetts recognized the establishment of such paths or "lanes," and he cited the names of several such still open and used by the public in the city of Boston. He clinched his arguments by quoting several paragraphs from two different books published some time previously by his opponent, in which he — their author — was shown to have recognized the same kind of public rights which Mr. Daggett then sought to establish. He thus condemned his opponent out of his own mouth, and won the case. This was a kind of triumph he thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed, and he did a good deal of quiet chuckling over his success in this instance, because his adversary was both a clever man and lawyer.

What may be termed the strictly professional part of his profession was in harmony with Mr. Daggett's tastes, but the purely business portion was somewhat irksome to him. The keeping of accounts and the presenting of bills were matters very easily put off, and indeed very frequently forgotten altogether. His list of "charity clients," including those who paid only in "blessings," was always a long one, while among those who were willing and desirous to pay for services rendered there were many whom he insisted upon calling "neighbors" and "friends," for whom as such prices were

reduced. The consequences to his income are easily calculated; but it was inborn in his nature to dislike the process of accepting remuneration for work he did, and equally in his nature to take great pleasure in using his time and talents and the results of his experience and research for the benefit or the gratification of others. More than this, he frequently took financial risks in order to assist friends or clients, and through the failure of some of these to meet their obligations he suffered severe and irretrievable losses, thus becoming unable to meet some of his own obligations during the later period of his life. All such losses he bore without bitter complaints against those through whose misfortune or carelessness they came upon him, though he felt none the less keenly their consequences both to himself and others, as occasional expressions made to those who knew him best clearly showed. All the many trials of his life he met with the calmness and dignity possible only to those who possess strong and earnest characters. From a strictly business point of view, actions like some of his may seem worthy of nothing but condemnation, but, as they often have for their underlying motive the generous desire only to render needed assistance to fellow creatures in trouble, they, on the other hand, deserve the highest commendation. Every truly unselfish act — no matter what the immediate or apparent result may be — must in some degree benefit its doer and him for whom it is done; and we feel sure that the higher records will bear testimony to the purity of purpose prompting many such deeds in the life of him of whom we write, and that "verily, he shall have his reward."

Of a modest and retiring disposition, Mr. Daggett never pushed himself forward, but left to others the task of finding out his merits. Indeed he never seemed to fully appreciate his own talents and acquirements, or adequately to value his professional services. He did not seek office, but if elected to places of public trust, he was certain to "do with his might what his hands found to do," in the best interests of his constituents. He was equally conscientious in the performance of the ordinary duties of a private citizen. In politics he was a whig, later a republican, and a stanch adherent to the true precepts of those parties. He often took a leading part in political meetings, and frequently prepared the resolves which they had occasion to adopt. The rights of citizenship in our great American Republic were valuable in his eyes, and their exercise always an important matter. He deemed it every man's duty to vote upon questions before the public, whether party issues were great or small, and he himself was always to be found at town-meetings, whether the part he played there was a prominent one or simply that of casting his ballot. He never willingly omitted this duty, and he never laid it aside, for friends, knowing his feelings on this subject, arranged for his speedy and comfortable conveyance to and from the polling places during the years of his old age.

For upwards of a quarter of a century he was a member of the New England Genealogical Historical Society. In 1854 the Old Colony Historical

Society was formed in Taunton, and he was one of its constituent members. The first president was Nathaniel Morton, Esq. His death occurred two years later, and Mr. Daggett was chosen chairman of the committee appointed to prepare a suitable series of resolutions thereupon, and at the society's meeting, held April 14, 1856, when these resolutions were presented for approval, he was chosen president. He retained the office until his death, a period of almost thirty years, though during the latter part of the time his increasing years and somewhat enfeebled physical condition prevented his regular attendance upon meetings.

It was allotted to Mr. and Mrs. Daggett to have almost a half-century of married life. On June 18, 1880, the anniversary of their wedding, quite a number of neighbors and friends gathered at their pleasant home to offer congratulations upon the occasion. Our town poet — a valued friend of the family — brought her good wishes in rhyme, and it seems appropriate to give here her pretty description of the forty years of life's journey these two had traveled together, and Mr. Daggett's reply rendered in verse — the last he wrote :—

The angel, in form a woman,
Hath bidden me "Write,"
And the spirit of Love, unbidden,
My thoughts indite.

We lift the veil of forty years,
Pass in review its hopes and fears;
Turn back along the train of thought
And see the changes time hath wrought.
Ere railroads with their iron band
Had run and crost all o'er the land;
Ere telegraph with magic wire
Had utilized the lightning's fire;
Ere cable run on ocean's floor,
Or telephone from door to door;
When "Weekly" the newspaper came,
With news that seemed nor old nor tame;
When neighbors' girls went out to help,
And Bridget, like the foreign kelp,
Still clung to her own native shores,
Nor yet had tended Yankee doors;
When matrons of an afternoon,
Went out to tea, and tongues kept tune,
From three o'clock till waning light,
To knitting-needles sharp and bright,
And no one in the town had seen
A knitting or sewing machine;
They wore a dress of cambric neat,
Apron of silk, with fold or "pleat";
And muslin caps; no wonder then
They seemed so old to children's ken.

Then Saturday was baking day
(Not with gas stove, like child at play);

The gaping oven opens wide,
— The bread-trough standing close beside —
The bread and pudding each in turn.
(Meanwhile, in shady porch the churn,
Full of rich cream, awaiting stands.
No Oleo then the taste to cheat,
Made up of what we won't repeat,
But *butter* golden, rich and rare,
The skilful hands with pride prepare.)
The oven's ready: beat the cake;
The pies of golden pumpkin make;
The custard too of milk and cream,
Not milk shook up by jarring team.
Father to clear the oven comes.
Wake visions of our early homes.
Let not the homely mem'ries sleep;
The toils and pleasures sacred keep.
The mother of our host! to-day,
Her name shall mingle with our lay,
The beauty of her womanhood;
Her common sense, uncommon good.
To her he owes the gentle grace,
That smiles so calmly in his face;
Refinement of the heart and air
That makes him welcome everywhere
As Attleborough's noble son;
Her honored, loved historian.

I will not, really cannot say
(For that was just before my day)
If all the maidens fair in town,
Looked with approval or a frown,
When this young squire went just outside
To choose a young and blooming bride.
But this I know, that grafted fruit
Is oft more choice than native shoot.
She came to cheer and share his life;
These many years a loving wife.
Changes that come to all have come;
Sunshine and darkness filled the home,
Not everything the heart could wish
Drops into the uplifted dish.
Sometimes the cup with joy o'erflows;
By little graves, seems full of woes,
But the good God, high over all,
Notes e'en the tiny sparrow's fall —
And says: "Fear not, whate'er betide,
Thy Saviour still is at thy side."

The years have brought the frost of age,
The kind deeds still her hands engage.
We see her deck the blushing bride,
And stand the sufferer's couch beside;
Refraining from no work of good
We think, "She hath done what she could."

May the old love, that 's always new,
Attend you all your journey through;
Children be spared to close your eyes,
And days yet dawn of glad surprise;
With sunsets brighter than the morn;
With faith and hope in Christ newborn;
And golden wedding days be given,
If not on earth, above in heaven.

From this long stage of life we turn our eyes
Back o'er the flight of years, to other days,
Where Fancy's light illumes the morning skies,
And ever-blooming Spring its charms displays.

In vain we look for those, in youth's bright day,
Who trod the path with us when life began,
But dropped their burdens on the weary way,
Where many a stone now marks life's shorten'd span.

They 've gained a happier clime and fairer shore,
But left us here our lonely way to wend;
We 'll patient tread the path they trod before,
And meet them when we reach our journey's end.

We 'll cheerful walk our life's allotted span,
For oft its setting sun will shine as bright,
In age, while traveling down life's smooth decline,
As when, in youth, it sheds its morning light.

We leave the Past behind and look around,
O'er coming years — whate'er our lot may be.
When other forty years have run their round,
May *all* of you be here again to see!

On the tenth of February, 1885, there was a gathering of friends at Mr. Daggett's residence to congratulate him on attaining his eightieth birthday — which proved to be his last. At this time a number of his fellow citizens united in presenting him with a substantial proof of their good wishes in the form of a handsome purse of money.

Throughout his life Mr. Daggett enjoyed for the most part uniform good health, occasional attacks of a rheumatic nature being the only interruptions; and this continued until the very last year he lived. In the autumn of 1884 he took what he called a very severe cold, from which he did not rally for months; indeed he never fully recovered, for this illness proved to be "the beginning of the end." In the spring and early summer of 1885 the very severe and dangerous illness of his wife caused him great anxiety, and just when this had begun in some measure to be relieved he was thrown from a carriage and narrowly escaped with his life. The outward injuries were apparently slight, and he recuperated with wonderful rapidity considering his advanced age; but the internal shock he sustained produced an unfavorable effect upon his weakening system, and from that he never

recovered. As the autumn again advanced the "cold," as he insisted upon calling it, again attacked him and he suffered at times considerably from pain; but more and continuously from inability to breathe with any degree of ease or comfort. During this time he passed many sleepless nights, walking from room to room, resting now and again perhaps for a few moments in his chair or on some couch, and going repeatedly to the door to gain an instant's relief from inhaling the fresh outer air. Even after weeks of this experience his vitality was so great that it was thought he would live on for some time, but that probably he could not survive the entire winter. The end therefore came much sooner than was expected, and very suddenly. Weary and weak as he had long been, he never wholly gave up work, for only twenty-four hours before he died he walked slowly and painfully from his sitting-room to his office and tried to attend to the wants of a client. The hand of death was even then laid heavily upon him, but his quiet, uncomplaining fortitude prevented this from being realized by those about him. He attempted to do what was asked of him, but his, until then, ever-willing hands refused to perform their wonted offices. He probably realized himself the meaning of this failure, but he made no sign. With his usual gentle courtesy he apologized for his inability to serve the person in waiting, and with the old familiar phrase begged him to "call again in a few days" when he should probably be better of his ailment and could attend to the business required.

His last day of life was comparatively free from suffering and can be recalled without painful sorrow by those who were with him at the time. In the early evening of Sunday, December 13, 1885, at the age of eighty years, ten months and three days, he passed away — quiet and peaceful in his death as he had ever been in his life. He died of no special disease, but because his physical powers were worn out, because the work allotted him to do on earth was, in the eyes of the Supreme Ruler, finished. For a year or two previous to his death a slight imperfection in his hearing was at times noticeable, but his eyesight always remained wholly unimpaired. In this way he was remarkable, for he never wore glasses, and was always able to read fine print with ease and to write readily by lamplight — the one a habit formed for pleasure, the other a custom he had been obliged to adopt and follow constantly, a great deal of his writing, both professional and literary, having been done after nightfall. He retained all his mental faculties to an unusual degree, for there was never the slightest diminution in this regard apparent. His mind was perfectly clear to the very last, for he conversed rationally and distinctly in a manner to show his comprehension of himself and his surroundings frequently during his last hours, and spoke in the same clear and sensible way only a few moments before his decease. His friends were happily spared the grief of witnessing the decay of his bright intellect, for he had no days of feeble, helpless "second childhood," either physi-

cally or mentally, and the pleasures of the life he loved — the life of real companionship with books and pen — were never denied to him, but were enjoyed and appreciated with the eager zest of his earlier years even to the very end.

Mrs. Daggett survived her husband only six months. She died at the residence of Miss Susan Thacher on Bank Street, June 22, 1886, after a long and extremely painful illness which had severely shattered her body, and to some extent her mind; but could never quench her brave and cheerful spirit. She was buried by the side of her husband and children in the "Old Kirk Yard." With the death of these two one of Attleborough's pleasantest homes for nearly fifty years was broken up, though cherished memories of it and of them will long remain.

Mr. Daggett had been president of the trustees of the Richardson school fund since the first board was elected; a period of more than forty years. At a meeting of this board of Trustees held December 16, 1885, the following, among several other resolutions, was unanimously adopted: "*Resolved*, That we mourn the removal of a wise and faithful President of this corporation, and the loss to this community of a citizen whose public spirit and whose courteous and honorable character have won the respect and regard of all."

On January 22, 1886, the annual meeting of the Old Colony Historical Society was held at Taunton. In the course of his address, reviewing the year just past, the vice-president, Rev. S. Hopkins Emory, in speaking of Mr. Daggett, said: "I cannot refrain from expressing my deep sense of personal bereavement, and the exceeding great value of the deceased to the Old Colony Historical Society as a member and an officer. His industry in historical research, his untarnished reputation in his profession as a lawyer and in social life made his name a tower of strength, a credit and a comfort to us. We have abundant reason to mourn his loss." A memorial of Mr. Daggett prepared by the Society's historiographer, Judge Fuller, was read at this meeting, and after the election of officers his successor as president, Mr. Emory, proposed the following action upon his death, which the society adopted: "*Whereas*, The Hon. John Daggett, second President of the Old Colony Historical Society, who had served it in that capacity nearly thirty years, has recently been called away by death. This is to record our appreciation, as a society, of the high moral character of the deceased — those admirable qualities of mind and heart which so endeared him to his friends and brought such honor to this society over which he so long presided. In his profession as a lawyer, in all the offices of responsibility and trust which he was called to fill, his reputation was unsullied. Ever courteous, polite, and kind, he was deservedly popular. With a natural aptitude for historical research, he was eminently successful in gathering rich stores of facts concerning his own town in particular, and the Old Colony generally;

so that, although dead, he will yet live as the historian of Attleborough and the long-time President of the Historical Society, of which he was an original member."

The librarian of the society, in writing of him and referring to their long and pleasant acquaintance of over sixty years, says: "No man living ever held my esteem and regard so warmly as John Daggett. We elected and reëlected him our President year after year, and never was an opposing vote given to supersede him while living. I say this that it may be known in what estimation he was held and how he was appreciated by his Taunton friends and members of the society." The same writer, Mr. J. W. D. Hall, in an obituary notice printed in a Taunton paper, further says: "He has also been several years preparing a more elaborate history of that flourishing town (Attleborough), its ancient and modern enterprises and industries that have grown up to annual millions, which he leaves in manuscript. He has also devoted some of his leisure time to the investigation of the Old Colony and North Purchase settlements in connection with the original lines of the ancient town of Rehoboth, and was one of the most thoroughly posted antiquarians. His genial kindliness, courtesy, and integrity of character, as a counselor and friend — always ready to say a kind word, never a hard one — secured for him the title of 'honest John Daggett,' which he wore with modest grace and merit from his college days, during these sixty years, to the time when 'death claimed a shining mark.' He has passed away, but his lifelong deeds of kindness will live after him, and his memory as the Christian gentleman will ever be cherished."

A Mr. Everett, of East Princeton, this State, a descendant of Attleborough people who emigrated to that town in 1764, wrote thus in a communication dated December 27, 1885, which he sent to the *Advocate:* "I formed the acquaintance of Mr. Daggett, in the House of Representatives in Boston, in the winter of 1836. I was more interested in Mr. Daggett, not alone from his representing Old Attleborough in the Legislature, but from the fact that we were two of the four youngest members of the House of Representatives, and were in age from twenty-eight to thirty. Julius Rockwell, now Judge of the Superior Court of our State, and the talented statesman and keen debater, and Robert Rantoul, Jr., were the other two young members referred to. Mr. Daggett never made speeches — certainly never to exhibit egotistically any pride of oratory. He was an influential member of any committee upon which he was placed. He was always on duty, carefully examining every bill or resolve presented, and never giving his approval to any act or measure that was not approved by his judgment for the good of the State. As a friend he was always social, agreeable, and confiding. He was eminently a true Christian gentleman. But his life work is done, and he has passed over the river to the immortal shores of the better land, and has had accorded to him the 'Welcome, good and faithful servant.'" This inter-

esting article closes with these words: "Well! Attleborough of one hundred and twenty years ago was purely a farming town; but now various industries of this teeming age eclipse too much the honest farmer's toil and produce. But anyway may blessings rest on old Attleborough evermore" — a sentiment which would have met with a truly heartfelt response from the lips of him whose death occasioned the writing of the reminiscences, some of which have been quoted, could he but have read it.

A townsman writes of him as "one of the oldest and perhaps best known citizens of Attleborough." (And it is perhaps needless to say that his reputation was not confined to his native town.) "But for him the history of the town would probably have been a blank to this day. When we remember that Mr. Daggett had been fifty-five years a practising lawyer and that he retained his activity until the very last, going from his room to his office to meet a client the day before his death, we may form some conception of the amount of valuable work he had in its aggregate accomplished. He saw the town of Attleborough increase its population more than tenfold, and his native village grow from a church, a tavern, and three dwellings to its present flourishing condition. He was a man of active mind, careful and shrewd in his profession, a well-read antiquarian and historian, and kept thoroughly up with the political and social movements of his time. In his family he was kind and courteous, and much attached to those bound to him in the ties of kin. His manners were learned in the time when children were taught politeness and courtesy was not a lost art. He carried into his converse with every one a dignity yet pleasantness of demeanor which is seldom met in the younger generation. He will be missed throughout the wide circle of friends and acquaintances which his fourscore years of life had gathered about him. He goes to his rest full of years and of deeds."

Another townsman writes: "Although in his later years he has been compelled to lead a more quiet life, for many years he was prominent in public affairs and since his retirement has exercised a steady influence, being frequently sought for counsel and information, not only on matters directly connected with his profession, but upon literary and historical subjects, upon which he was an acknowledged authority. For over half a century he continued his legal practice, reduced of course in amount in his later years. He was particular about having only cases which he thought were founded on justice, and identified himself heartily with his client's interests. In many ways he was helpful to those in need of legal services, and ever seemed more anxious to be of service than to win a financial gain. As a public servant he was careful, faithful, honorable, serviceable, and respected, recognized as an equal among experienced legislators and officials. His greatest taste was for antiquarian researches and historical information. He probably knew more about Attleborough people and their connections all over the country than any other person. With nice literary tastes and possessing a large library,

he was well read, not only in standard literature, but in all the events, literary, social, and political, of the present time. He was a pleasant converser, and ever ready to give to others, in a most gracious way, the results of his long experience. His character was pure, his bearing dignified, his manners courtly, his disposition kind. Retiring in his manners, for one so useful in a public way, he was a very approachable man, seeking no honors, shirking no responsibilities. He realized in its fullest sense the word gentleman. A good, well-balanced, honorable, useful life was rounded with a sleep."

An old lawyer friend speaks of him as a better *lawyer* than *advocate*, saying that while he prepared his cases well and thoroughly, he disturbed himself over the closing of the same to the jury, and therefore almost always had Mr. Clifford or Mr. Read, or some other of their special class, make the closing arguments for him. The same friend says again: "He was interested in and thoroughly read in Probate Law. He was not a man of great force or executive ability, but as counselor he was thorough and reliable. He enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all who were brought in contact with him as a man or lawyer. Frankness, and not duplicity, was his leading characteristic."

In the necrology of Brown University for the year 1885–86 may be found the following words relating to Mr. Daggett: "His legal and general knowledge and his good judgment, together with his public spirit and integrity and fidelity, won for him the confidence and the suffrages of his townsmen, and also ensured him success in the different places of trust which he filled. He also found time for literary and historical studies. His interest in inquiries and studies pertaining to the objects of these societies (the Old Colony Historical and New England Genealogical Society) induced him to write and publish the history of his native town of Attleborough, a task which he so worthily discharged as to win for him, with the respect and love of his townsmen, the name and influence of an authority in all that pertained to the annals of their town. Yet apart from that good service he was widely known and esteemed in Attleborough, and a popular man throughout the State."

Mr. Daggett was to the last days of his life a loyal son of his Alma Mater. To the last he preserved a fresh and active interest in all that pertained to the welfare and progress of the university, and he especially delighted when within its loved borders to talk over with his classmates and fellow students, as they gathered there from year to year, the well remembered and deeply cherished experiences of their college life.

Mr. Daggett's funeral occurred December 17, 1885. A very beautiful and touching service for the invalid wife was conducted at his residence by Rev. Mr. Barton. The members of the bar in town bore him on his final earthly journey, and a number of prominent citizens of his native village,

and old friends and representative men from all parts of the town attended him as bearers, or as a special mark of respect. It was fitting that his last resting-place this side the grave should be in the edifice of that church whose history he had followed with so much interest, for whose welfare he long and faithfully had labored, and whose wonted place within its walls had during more than threescore years and ten so seldom been vacant. Many friends from town and from abroad gathered there and followed him as he passed up its familiar aisle for the last time. Appropriate music was rendered and his favorite hymn, "Rock of Ages," was remembered. The discourse was delivered by Mr. Barton, and an outline of it follows.

"The leading facts about him we mourn have already been made public. His life covered an important period of the nation's history, and of the history of the world. He was born, 1805, died 1885, a brief statement; but how much happened between those dates, and how well he improved those years! The year of his birth Lord Nelson defeated the combined fleets of France and Spain at Trafalgar; in that year France became an empire. Our own country had about six millions of people. How great a change there is from the time one fellow-citizen made his entrance into the world, to the time of his exit! What a contrast is his native town at his departure to what it was at his birth! This village in 1805 had a church, tavern, and three dwellings. For many years he wrought faithfully, was most active, respected, honored. He had an active mind, varied attainments, was public spirited, well informed on all public questions, and it is not strange that he was so serviceable to this town and to different generations. The profession of law seems to demand more real brain work than any other, though different in kind. Our most important temporal matters depend upon the work of the profession of which he was a wise, an honored, and an active member. His character was so real, so open, so well known, there seems little need to enlarge upon it to those familiar with him. Let us see how his life touched our own. In talking with him and finding the purity and loftiness of his motives, one was reminded of the text, 'Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report,' for he seemed to move in harmony with these ideas. Always and easily a gentleman, he was never in too much haste to exchange civilities graciously and gracefully. His mind and heart were set upon the history of his native town." The speaker dwelt at large upon the value of this history, "to the student, to the patriotic, to all," and the patience, accuracy, and diligence which had been put into the work were highly commended. The discourse was closed with these words: "He was busily engaged in compiling facts for a larger and more complete history, but he is gone without accomplishing it. Oh, the facts which perished when this man died! Oh, the threads which ended when he passed away! Who will take up the work where he left it and complete the monument he was erecting?"

A long-time and honored friend, and the president of his loved institution, Dr. E. G. Robinson, of Brown University, then paid a most beautiful tribute to the life and character of Mr. Daggett, in words something like these: "Death, come when it may, and as often as it may, never fails to fill the mind with awe. For a [long] valued spirit entering upon the untried and unknown, we cannot grieve as for one smitten in early manhood, or in the midst of mature years. He was a shock of corn fully ripened and ready for the harvest. Not a self-seeker, not obtrusive, content with himself and the realities of his life, strikingly in contrast with the present men and times, never seeking favor, possessed of a good reputation, he was a man of far more ability than was always recognized. He really had a perfectly stainless character; he was a product of Christian civilization, a real man [a single-minded man], gentle to an excessive degree, modest, but real. Is there any higher plane? He was self-sacrificing, content to be simply faithful to his duty, honest in heart, purpose, and deed. He never sought office; it was thrust upon him. Many, nearly all, with whom he was associated in the law have passed away; they were men of ability and wide reputation. He was the last but one of his [college] class. He did not practice law chiefly for gain, but he performed much gratuitous service. He knew more about the old families of the town and their descendants than any other man in the State or country, and has preserved material for some one to complete and publish. He never allowed himself to be ruffled by men, he never ruffled any one else. Can the influence of such a man be anything but good? Pure, kind, faithful, helpful, gentle, he wrought his lifework and now he has fallen on sleep."

A townsman says: "At the completion of the services, one of the town's greatest men was laid at rest in the old kirkyard in the rear of the church." By the strong, kind hands of friends he was carried to that sacred spot, and by them gently and tenderly lowered into his grave. He lies in the place of his expressed desire, near his mother, in the soil he loved so well, surrounded by many members of his own family, and with many of his kindred near. May he rest there undisturbed till the last sound of time shall usher in eternity!

Such in brief was the life of John Daggett, such his death, and such a few of the honest, heartfelt expressions of commendation of his character and career. No man ever loved his native town with a deeper, warmer, more faithful and stedfast love than he, no man was ever more zealous in her cause or worked in her interests with a nobler, more generous fidelity than he. He has given tangible and enduring proof of the reality and earnestness of his affection by the careful collection and preservation of many of the facts to be found in this book, and the name to which the work entitles him — one he highly prized, and the one by which he will be best known and longest remembered, is the name —

THE HISTORIAN OF ATTLEBOROUGH.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THIS little work is designed principally for the citizens of this town. The subject is not presumed to be of sufficient interest to attract the particular attention of strangers. I have, therefore, entered into details and local descriptions which will not be interesting to readers in general, but only to those who are connected with the scene by association or locality.

The work originated in a Lecture delivered before the Lyceum in Attleborough in 1830, which was prepared without the most distant idea of publication. The subject, though an *old* one, being entirely *new* to the hearers, excited much interest. At the earnest request of many of the most respectable citizens of the town, I concluded to prepare it for publication, to be included in a mere pamphlet of about sixty pages. In compliance with what seemed the general wish, proposals were accordingly issued, to ascertain if sufficient encouragement would be given to justify the undertaking. But in the prosecution of my researches new materials were found, and the work multiplied upon my hands, until it has extended to more than double its original size.

When the author attempted to prepare even a brief lecture on the subject and began to make inquiries accordingly, he was told that it was in vain — that no materials existed from which a sketch could be formed, particularly in relation to our early history. The attempt indeed was at first discouraging. The field was new and unexplored. There was no light "to lead my blind way" through the dark labyrinths of the past. Little or nothing was contained in other works to which I could refer for aid. The spot had almost escaped the prying curiosity of the antiquarian. I found, however, after diligent and laborious research, facts enough to make up the present volume.

The materials which are here embodied have been derived mostly from original sources. I have gathered "here a little, and there a little." Tradition has supplied a part; for some facts I am indebted to the recollections of the aged; others I have industriously gleaned from a mass of voluminous and almost illegible records and other manuscripts. I have left nothing unsearched which might throw light on the early history of the town.

The object of this work is not mere amusement, but the preservation of facts. I have therefore selected not merely what might be interesting at the present time, but what might be valuable for future reference. Hence some may think that it is too minute in the relation of circumstances; but others, knowing the true objects of such a work, will be rather inclined to complain that it is not minute enough. Minuteness and detail are, in fact, the principal merit of local histories. Such works will furnish materials for more general history. This is the design; or at least, one great benefit to be derived from them is the collection and preservation of facts for a more full and perfect history of the country. Many items which have been collected together in these pages, however unimportant now, will be curiosities to future generations. They will become more interesting, as time throws its thickening shadows over the actors and events of the past.

I have seized the present moment and gathered what could be obtained from tradition, and thus arrested what was rapidly passing into the gulf of oblivion. I have been particularly minute in describing the transactions connected with the Revolution. Those who lived in that age — who saw, and acted in, the great scenes which then transpired, and who alone can give us correct and circumstantial accounts of that period, will in a very few years more have passed from the stage of life; and thus interesting and important facts will be irrecoverably lost to us and to posterity, unless now rescued and embodied in a durable form. The present is the only time to obtain minute and circumstantial accounts of the Revolution. Even now, since the commencement of this work, several, from whom I have obtained facts in relation to that period, have descended to the silence of the grave. It is hoped, that every opportunity

will be improved, to collect information from those who were personally engaged in the scenes of the Revolution, ere they shall disappear from the stage of life. It is useless to disguise that the labor and expense of collecting the materials and preparing the work, brief and imperfect as it is, have far exceeded my expectations. Indeed, no one, until he has tried the experiment, can fully appreciate the labor and patience and perseverance which are requisite in connecting insulated facts and supplying broken links in the chain, and the perplexity which is caused in reconciling apparent contradictions and removing doubts. I have, however, no expectation of receiving an adequate compensation for the time and expense bestowed upon the work; but the consciousness of having redeemed from undeserved neglect the names of our worthy forefathers, and rescued from oblivion many facts in the history of my native town which would otherwise have been irrecoverably lost, will be, if not a sufficient reward, at least a consolation.

Such a work, I am aware, is of no great consequence to any but those who are connected with the town. But it takes many little rills to make up the great current of history. All these things tend to throw light on the interesting subject of our early history; and in this view every historical fact, however minute or unimportant in itself, is valuable and worthy of preservation. And it may be truly said that he has not labored in vain who has added one new truth to what is already known, or elucidated one dark spot in his country's history.

In the extracts which have been made from ancient records I have retained the orignal dates and the titles which were bestowed in accordance with the customs of former times. Even the most inferior titles then conferred some distinction. In the earliest records it is not uncommon to find "Corporal and Sergeant" such-a-one. Ensign, Lieutenant, and Captain were invariably applied to those who could claim the honor. Even the title of *Mr.*, which is now without distinction, on account of its indiscriminate application, was once esteemed an honor to which but few could aspire!

I have labored to be accurate, but some errors have doubtless escaped the closest attention. If any should be observed, it will be esteemed a favor if those who have the means will communicate the correction.

ATTLEBOROUGH, January, 1834.

TO search the records of the past,
Recall the scenes of early days,
Was his, whose memory will last
Beyond the poet's lays.
But with the task yet incomplete,
The purpose unfulfilled,
A messenger, that comes for all,
His mortal pulses stilled.

His mantle falling rests on one
Endowed with youth and power
To bring the work her father left
Down to the present hour.
Upon this page of History
With gratitude we look
And bless the art of magic skill
That saves it in a book.

HISTORY

OF

ATTLEBOROUGH.

A SKETCH

OF THE

HISTORY OF ATTLEBOROUGH.

CHAPTER I.

SETTLEMENT OF REHOBOTH. — PURCHASE OF THE TRACT CALLED REHOBOTH NORTH PURCHASE. — PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROPRIETORS. — CAPTAIN THOMAS WILLETT, ETC.

IN 1643 a company was formed at Weymouth, Mass., consisting of Rev. Samuel Newman and a large portion of his congregation, for the purpose of establishing a new settlement in this vicinity. They purchased a large tract of land of the Sachem of Pokanoket, including what is now Rehoboth, Seekonk, Pawtucket, East Providence, and a part of Swansea, then known by the name of Wannamoisett; and in the spring of 1644 removed to a place then called by the Indians Seacunke, and commenced their settlement around the Great Plain. This was the Rehoboth Purchase. It was purchased of Massasoit, and one inducement in the selection of this particular tract by the settlers of Rehoboth may probably have been the fact that it included a large, level plain clear of wood and ready for cultivation. Here the inhabitants continued with many additions to their number as a distinct and independent settlement until June 4, 1645, when they were found to be within the limits and were adopted into the jurisdiction of Plymouth Colony, to whose territory this tract belonged, and were incorporated as a township by the scriptural name of Rehoboth.

Here was then principally a wilderness with no other settlement in the immediate vicinity, the nearest being the then new settlement at Cohannet, Taunton, distant about twelve miles. The Rehoboth plantation prospered and continued to receive accessions from new emigrants and also from the settlements near Plymouth, from Duxbury, Marshfield, and Scituate, some from Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, Hingham, Dedham, and some more emigrants from Weymouth, the former residence of the original settlers. These people were almost entirely from Massachusetts Colony, who landed at Boston in 1630 and subsequently, and the location of Rehoboth was deemed favorable, as it was situated on the borders of the Narragansett Bay.

The principal men of this settlement were a substantial and intelligent class of people, and seem to have been above the average, possessing in a marked degree the characteristics required in pioneers. Their first minister seems to have been especially qualified for the position he occupied. Most of the first generation of ministers in the New England colonies were learned men, educated in the universities in England, at first ministers of the Established Church, who, from non-conformity, were obliged to flee from religious persecution at home and to seek an asylum in the American wilderness. Many of them were eminently *practical* men, fitted by their varied experience in life to be the advisers, the guides, or the pioneers of their flocks in these early settlements. Such was Samuel Newman, who led his people into the rough and hardy soil of Rehoboth, where he remained in the laborious and faithful discharge of his duties as pastor of the first church for a period of twenty years until his death. He was the son of Richard Newman, and was born in Banbury, Oxfordshire, in 1602, of a family "more eminent and more ancient than most in the realm of England," and was baptized by a clergyman of that parish, May 24, 1602. He was educated at Cambridge, England, having entered Trinity College there, March 3, 1619. He preached in several places after leaving the University, and emigrated to this country about 1636. He was a short time at Dorchester, then removed to Weymouth, and finally to Rehoboth. He died July 5, 1663, and the manner of his death was somewhat peculiar, as he had a certain premonition of it, and stated that it would occur. He was apparently in good health, but suddenly expired on the day named. He was buried in the old burying-ground at Seekonk. His dust has there mingled with his mother earth, but no monument marks the spot. A man of so much usefulness and distinction in his day and generation should not be suffered to remain without even the ordinary memorials of the dead — such as mark the last resting-places of the most humble tenants of the grave. We often neglect the living and honor the dead; but we sometimes honor the living and forget the dead.

Mr. Newman was especially remarkable as being the author of a Concordance of the Bible, a voluminous work, a most laborious one to accomplish, and which shows him to have been a very learned man. The first edition was published in London in 1643, about the time of his removal to Rehoboth. While there he revised the work, making many additions and improvements. The second edition was published at the same place in 1650, and a third in 1658. It was a work of great utility, not only in itself, but as laying the foundation for subsequent works of a similar character. It was published about one hundred years earlier than the since famous Cruden's Concordance. In 1662, a short time before Newman's death, an edition of this work somewhat altered and improved was published by the learned scholars of Cambridge University, England, at the University Press, which was afterwards known to the public as the "Cambridge Concordance," thus robbing the

real author of the reputation which belonged to him, though in the preface the editor acknowledges that it is founded on Newman's work, and his plan is adopted.[1]

It is related of the author, that while pursuing this work at Rehoboth he was obliged from the scarcity of materials for lighting in that infant settlement to use pine knots for the purpose. It is justly a matter of no little satisfaction to us that the author of such a monument of learning and industry should have completed it while he was an inhabitant of the Old Colony.

As many of the pioneers of Rehoboth or their immediate descendants were the pioneers in establishing our town, we go back together in large measure to original founders. We can claim a common interest in this eminent scholar as one of her pioneers, and we deem this short sketch of his life appropriate to the history of Attleborough.

During the first seventeen years after the settlement of Rehoboth there was remaining a large tract of land belonging to the Indians, lying directly on the north of the town and between its north line and the south Massachusetts Bay line, containing an area sufficient for two large townships. This region was then the domain of the "good Massasoit," the fast friend of the English. Pocanoket, or Pawkunnawket, is the name that was applied to the tribal dominion of Massasoit, whose personal tribe was the Wampanoags. His general authority extended over various other tribes in Plymouth Colony, and his dominion descended through Wamsutta to Pometacom, King Philip. It is believed by historians that the tribe of Massasoit contained a numerous population shortly before the landing of the Pilgrims. In 1612 it was said to have numbered four thousand warriors, but about that time, or a little later, it had been greatly reduced in numbers by the terrible and fatal pestilence which swept away so many of the natives. Baylies says this plague almost depopulated the New England coast. The Pokanokets suffered the most, and on the arrival of the Plymouth settlers in 1620 their warriors numbered only sixty. The territory included in the Rehoboth North Purchase was probably inhabited by the Wampanoags (or Pocassetts).

"Once Pawkunnawket's warriors stood
Thick as the columns of the wood;
On shores and isles unconquered men
Called Massasoit father then."

How long in the ages of the past this fair domain had been in possession of the natives the records of time have never revealed. But their hour had now come; it was destined to pass from their hands to another and higher race. They were doomed to extinction. According to the inevitable law

[1] A copy of this edition came into the possession of the author, and was promised by him to the people of Rehoboth. Since his death, in fulfillment of this promise, it has been presented to them, and is now in the historical collection in Goff Memorial Hall. — EDITOR.

of Providence, if brought in conflict, the inferior must yield to the superior race. After Philip's War, a feeble and spiritless remnant lingered around their former abodes, in a degraded condition, for a few years, and then vanished forever.

"Of all their tribes, the heirs of want,
A feeble few our land may haunt;
The gloomy ghosts of dead renown
Awhile from sire to son go down;
And in their spectral visits say,
That here the red man once had sway."

About 1660 our forefathers began to feel "straitened," and wanted an enlargement, having only an area of about fifty thousand acres, and ten inhabitants to a mile. In 1661, therefore, Captain Thomas Willett, who was a skilful negotiator, and on intimate, friendly terms with the Indians, was employed by certain inhabitants of Rehoboth to make a purchase of a new tract of land in their behalf, having been first authorized and empowered by the court for that purpose. He accordingly purchased of Wamsutta (or Wamsetta) a certain tract of land situated north of the town of Rehoboth, which was called the Rehoboth North Purchase. Wamsutta was the then reigning Sachem of Pokanoket. He was the oldest son of Massasoit, and was originally called Mooanam, then Wamsutta, and finally, after the death of his father, according to Indian custom, his name was changed and he took that of Alexander. He died in the summer of 1662, about a year after the date of this purchase.[1]

The manner of acquiring title to land in this colony was by purchase from an Indian chief or sachem. The proprietorship appeared to be not in the tribe but in the sachem, and individual settlers were not permitted to make purchases on their own account. This was designed for the protection of the Indians against the greed of speculators or private rapacity. When lands were desired for settlement a company was formed of a fixed, specified, certain number of shares, and a committee appointed with the consent of the government to negotiate with the sachem for the purchase of a tract of land, generally of a territory sufficient for a township. When the purchase was made, the chief gave a deed in his own name, which was afterwards confirmed by a deed from the government to the purchasers or proprietors. A meeting was called of the shareholders, who organized by choosing a clerk who was to register the proceedings of the company, a committee of three or more, and one or more surveyors of lands, and from time to time they ordered a dividend or division of their common lands, of so many acres to a share. A proprietor would then or at any time apply to the committee and one of the surveyors, who would proceed to *lay out* or assign to him a

[1] Wamsutta's wife was named Namumpum. See *Drake's Indian Biography*.

certain number of acres on his share by metes and bounds; and he would make a return of the *lay out* to the clerk, who recorded the same on his books. This constituted the shareholder's individual title to his lands. These divisions were ordered from time to time till the whole common and undivided lands were exhausted. In this way the original, private titles to all the lands in the Rehoboth North Purchase were obtained. In ancient Rehoboth the inhabitants voted that "the recording of any man's land in the town Book shall be to him and his heirs sufficient assurance forever."[1] This made the title valid. A stranger or non-proprietor might purchase of a shareholder a whole or any part of a share, or a right to *lay out* and have assigned to him a certain number of acres in any particular division.

This purchase from Wamsutta was bounded west by Pawtucket River, now the Blackstone; north by the Massachusetts Colony, or the Bay Line (so called); east by territory which was afterwards the Taunton North Purchase, now Mansfield, Norton, and Easton; and south by the ancient Rehoboth, now Rehoboth, Seekonk, Pawtucket, and East Providence. This purchase included Attleborough, Cumberland, Rhode Island, and a tract of a mile and a half in width extending east and west, and a part of Wrentham and Foxborough. This mile and a half tract was given to Rehoboth as an enlargement by the agents of the court, who were appointed to convey the North Purchase to the proprietors, and afterwards, in 1710, restored to Attleborough by the Legislature of Massachusetts.

In those early days there was much looseness of expression in the legal proceedings. By some phraseology used the reader would suppose that the North Purchase was a part of the town of Rehoboth. It was never merged in that town, or included within its chartered limits. It was from the beginning intended for an independent township. On this point a misapprehension prevails, and there is some confusion and uncertainty in the first proceedings on the part of Rehoboth concerning the title to the North Purchase, such as was common in those days. The clerk of the town, in making his first records, regarded the purchase as made by the town as a corporation, but such was not in reality the case. It was made by shareholders, owning in different proportions, but generally one share each, and it soon assumed its true shape, by becoming an organization of "Proprietors of the Purchase." While it originated among the people of Rehoboth, and as the territory lay on the north of that town was called Rehoboth North Purchase, the shareholders did not include all the people of that town, but only a portion of them, with besides a number of non-residents, some of them from Wannamoisett (Swansea).

Settlers soon located on the North Purchase, but they were without the safeguard of the law. At first these inhabitants were not sufficient in

[1] *Baylies*, vol. II, p. 199.

numbers for an incorporation. They were therefore brought within the legal jurisdiction of Rehoboth by being temporarily *annexed* to it; or, as expressed by the order of the government, "included in the Constablerick of Rehoboth, till they should become sufficient for a township," and this temporary annexation was for municipal purposes and privileges.

A close examination of the records and history of the plantation shows that Attleborough, or the Rehoboth North Purchase, was an independent purchase, and in its boundaries always kept distinct, but, having for a time no special name for itself, it would naturally be called Rehoboth. The vote of the town of Rehoboth regarding the North Purchase annexation was: "To bring the inhabitants thereof into some lawful jurisdiction for their safety." This rather carelessly expressed vote meant they were to be subject to the town government of Rehoboth, and entitled to its benefits and privileges. Under this peculiar arrangement, its settlers voted in that town, and one of its inhabitants was once elected a representative. Other instances of a similar arrangement have occurred in the civil polity of the Old Colony.

The following copy of the Indian deed is taken from the Old Colony records:—

A DEED APPOINTED TO BE RECORDED.

Know all men, that I Wamsetta, alias Alexander, chief Sachem of Pokanokett, for divers good causes and valuable considerations me thereunto moving, have bargained and sold unto Captain Thomas Willett of Wannamoisett all those tracts of land situate and being from the bounds of Rehoboth ranging upon Pawtuckett River unto a place called Waweypounshag, the place where one Blackstone now sojourneth, and so ranging along to the said river unto a place called Messanegtacaneh, and from this upon a straight line crossing through the woods unto the uttermost bounds of a place called Mamantapett, or Wading River, and from the said River one mile and a half upon an east line, and from thence upon a south line unto the bounds of the town of Rehoboth: To have and to hold unto him the said Captain Willett and his associates, their heirs and assigns forever; reserving only a competent portion of land for some of the natives at Mishanegitaconett for to plant and sojourn upon, as the said Wamsetta alias Alexander and the said Thomas Willett jointly together shall see meet; and the rest of all the land aforementioned, with all the woods, waters, meadows, and all emoluments whatsoever to remain unto the said Thomas Willett and his associates, their heirs and assigns forever. Witness my hand and seal the eighth day of April in the year 1661.

The mark of
Λ X Λ
Wamsitta alias Alexander,
his seal [L. S.].

Signed, sealed, and delivered
in presence of
John Brown, Jr.,
Jonathan Bosworth,
John Sassaman,[1] the Interpreter.

April 10, 1666. Witnesseth these Presents, that Captain Thomas Willett above said hath and doth hereby resign, deliver, and make over all and singular the lands above mentioned, purchased of Wamsitta alias Alexander, chief Sachem of Pocanokett, according unto the bounds above expressed, with all and singular the benefits, privileges, and immunities there-

[1] John Sassaman, member of Indian Church at Natick, a school teacher. See *Baylies*.

unto appertaining, unto Mr. Thomas Prence, Major Josias Winslow, Capt. Thomas Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth, in the behalf of the Colony of New Plymouth. In witness whereof he doth hereunto set his hand and seal.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in presence of
Daniel Smith,
Nicholas Peck.

Thomas Willett [Seal].

For the better protection of the Indians and to prevent controversies and confusion of titles, the Government of Plymouth prohibited by law any person to purchase of them without the assent and positive confirmation of the government. This was first enacted by Statute in June, 1643, providing that no person should purchase, rent, or hire any lands, herbage, wood, or timber of any of the natives in any place within this jurisdiction under heavy penalty.[1]

The following is the Grant or Deed[2] of the Government: —

Know all men by these presents, that we Thomas Prence, Josias Winslow, Thomas Southworth, and Constant Southworth by order of the General Court of New Plymouth, and in the name and behalf of the said Colony of Plymouth, have and by these presents do bargain, sell, alien, grant and confer, and make over unto the proprietors of the town of Rehoboth, (viz.) unto all that hold there, from a fifty pound estate and upwards, according to their first agreement, all and singular the lands lying and being on the north side of that town of Rehoboth bounded as followeth, (viz.) by a River commonly called Pawtucket river, on the west, and up the said River unto the Massachusetts Line, and on the northerly side by the said Line until it cross the old road towards the Bay, where the marked tree stands and heap of stones, and thence a mile and a half east, and from thence by a direct line to the northeast corner of the present bounds of the town of Rehoboth, and so back again home unto the said Line between the governments; with all the meadows, woods, waters, and all benefits, emoluments, privileges, and immunities, thereunto appertaining and belonging, to have and to hold to them and to their heirs forever: Excepting that we reserve within this tract a farm formerly granted unto Major Josias Winslow, and a farm granted unto Capt. Thomas Willett, and two hundred acres of land unto Mr. James Brown about Snake Hill, and ten acres of meadow thereabouts; and the meadow called Blackstone's Meadow, the west plain and the south neck the quantity of two hundred acres, and the fifty acres granted to Roger Amadown, with four acres of meadow next adjoining, three acres to Nicholas Ide, and half an acre of meadow unto George Robinson: All the residue of the lands above mentioned we do hereby firmly make over unto the above said purchasers and their heirs forever, and do hereby acknowledge ourselves to be fully paid and satisfied for the same, and do exonerate, acquit and discharge them and every of them for and concerning the premises.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals, this tenth of April 1666.

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

ISAAC HOWLAND,
The mark X of
JOHN PARRIS,
The mark X of
JOHN ROCKET,[3]

THOMAS PRINCE, [L.S.]
JOSIAS WINSLOW, [L.S.]
THOMAS SOUTHWORTH, [L.S.]
CONSTANT SOUTHWORTH, [L.S.]

This tract was purchased, as the reader perceives, in behalf of the proprietors, by Captain Willett, of Wamsetta, the eldest son of Massasoit, Sachem,

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[1] *Plymouth Col.* Laws, p. 74; also, ib. p. 289, sect. 5. [2] The original is among the records of the Prop's of R. N. Purchase. [3] Perhaps son of Richard, of Braintree, born December 1, 1641. Joseph Rocket married Mary Wilmarth, January 5, 1680. Rehoboth.

April 8, 1661. Captain Willett held this title in his own name until April 10, 1666, on which day he conveyed it to certain men of Plymouth, the representatives of the goverment of that colony; and on the same day it was confirmed or conveyed by them to certain inhabitants of Rehoboth, and others, such as held £50 estates and upwards. The purchasers, as has been stated, were not limited to the inhabitants of that town, but included residents of Swansea (Wannamoisett) and other places, and new purchasers from time to time. They constituted a separate and distinct body or company of purchasers; they chose a proprietor's clerk, surveyors, and committees to divide the lands. They soon held separate meetings, kept separate books and records of their own, containing their proceedings and divisions of land. Captain Willett himself, who heads the list of proprietors, lived in Swansea; Mr. Myles was of the same place; Joanna Ide was of New Norrich, and William Allen of Prudense. Some of the original purchasers sold their shares, and upon the death of any of them his heirs became proprietors. Thus new shareholders were constantly being added to or substituted for the original ones, so that the proprietorship mostly came eventually into the hands of those who settled here. In 1672 a full and correct list of proprietors was made, there being seventy-nine and a half shares and eighty-two proprietors.

Before the signing and sealing of the above-mentioned deed it was also agreed according unto a clause in the Indian deed when these lands were purchased by Captain Willett that some meet proportion of lands about Sinnichiconet, such as the said Captain Willett and the Indian Sachem shall agree upon, should be set out for the use of the Indians.

Note on the back of the same deed: —

This Deed is recorded according to order by me Nathaniel Morton, Secretary to the Court of New Plymouth.

The Dividend of Lands enrolled,
Folio 217.

The following order relating to this subject was passed by the Court of New Plymouth.

NEW PLYMOUTH, October 2nd, 1665.

Whereas the Court, having formerly impowered Capt. Thomas Willett to purchase of the Indians certain Tracts of lands on the North of Rehoboth towards the Bay Line, the which he hath done, and is out of purse some considerable sum of money for the same, this Court have appointed the Honored Governor, the Major Winslow, Capt. Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth, to treat with Capt. Willett concerning the said purchase, and have impowered the above named Committee to take notice of what hath been purchased by him, and what Deeds he hath, and what his disbursments have been for the same; and have also impowered them to settle upon him such a proportion of the said lands as may appear to be equal, upon any grant to him; and to accommodate the town of Rehoboth respecting an enlargement of their town, as the Court have promised; and to take such course concerning the remainder as he may be reimbursed of his just due and those lands may be settled by the Court.

Extracted from and compared with the Records of said Court.

Per. SAMUEL SPRAGUE, *Clerk.*

CAPTAIN THOMAS WILLETT.

Some notice of Captain Thomas Willett, who stands at the head of our list of proprietors and whose life deserves to be better known to the present generation, will not be deemed inappropriate. His history does not exclusively belong to this town, but as he took so active and important a part in the original purchase and settlement of this and the neighboring towns, a brief sketch of his life seems to be demanded by the interest which our citizens must feel in his character. But little is known of him previous to his emigration to this country. He was a merchant in his native country, and probably in his business travels had become acquainted with the Pilgrims in Leyden, was a sympathizer in their religious views, and had resided with them in Holland for some time prior to their exile to America. Here he had an opportunity to acquire a good knowledge of the manners, customs, and language of the Dutch — a knowledge which was destined to prove very useful in later years in a far distant land. He was one of the last of the Leyden company, and came here probably about 1630, a very young man at the time of his arrival — perhaps twenty-one. One authority states that he came in 1629, being then in his twentieth year; others suppose he was about twenty-four years of age when he arrived at Plymouth, where he at first resided. He was an intelligent and well-educated man and soon became useful and distinguished in the colony. He was admitted freeman of Plymouth Colony, July 1, 1633, and six acres of land were granted him in Plymouth. He resided there quite a number of years and acquired an influence and highly respectable standing among the colonists. He soon took an active and prominent interest in the survey and settlement of other portions of the colony and in the purchase of lands from the aboriginal owners. He took much interest in the Indian race, cultivating acquaintance and friendship with them. They became thoroughly attached to him and had great confidence in him, calling him in some of their deeds "our loving friend Capt. Thomas Willett."

Soon after his arrival in 1630, though, as already observed, a young man, he was sent by the company of Plymouth, who had established a trading house at Kennebeck, to superintend their business as agent. While he was residing there Governor Winthrop relates of him the following curious anecdote: "At Kinnebeck, the Indians wanting food, and there being store in the Plymouth trading house, they conspired to kill the English there for their provision; and some Indians coming into the house, Mr. Willett, the master of the house, being reading the Bible, his countenance was more solemn than at other times, so as he did not look cheerfully upon them, as he was wont to do; whereupon they went out and told their fellows, that their purpose was discovered. They asked them how it could be. The others told them that they knew it by Mr. Willett's countenance, and that he had

discovered it by a book that he was reading. Whereupon they gave over their design."[1]

In 1647 he became successor — probably the immediate — of the famous Miles Standish, the Pilgrim warrior in the command of the military company at Plymouth. March 7, 1647, "The Military Company of New Plymouth, having according to order proposed unto the Court two men for every special office of their band, the Court do allow and approve of Capt. Thomas Willett, for Captain, Mr. Thomas Southworth, for Lieutenant, Mr. William Bradford, for Ensign."[2] He was in 1651 elected an assistant of the Governor, and was annually continued in that office till 1665, when other duties obliged him to decline, and James Brown, of Swansea, was chosen his successor. At this time he was selected by the Plymouth Court, agreeably to the request of His Majesty's Commissioners, to attend them at New York (which had just been surrendered by the Dutch), for the purpose of assisting them in organizing the new government. It is mentioned by Davis in a note to his edition of *Morton's Memorial* that "Col. Nichols, (one of the Commissioners,) in a letter to Gov. Prince, written from New York, the spring after the reduction of the Dutch settlements, requests that Capt. Willett may have such a dispensation from his official engagements in Plymouth Colony, as to be at liberty to assist in modelling and reducing the affairs in this settlement into good English. He remarks that Mr. Willett was more acquainted with the manners and customs of the Dutch than any gentleman in the country, and that his conversation was very acceptable to them." Captain Willett executed his duties there to the entire satisfaction of all concerned; his services were so highly appreciated and he rendered himself so popular with the people, that after the organization of the government he was chosen the first "English Mayor of the City of New York." He was elected to the same office a second time. "But," as Mr. Baylies, the historian of Plymouth Colony, has justly remarked, "even this first of city distinctions conferred by that proud metropolis did not impart more real honor to his character than the address and good feeling manifested by him in effecting the peaceable settlement of the humble town of Swansea." The Dutch had so much confidence in his integrity that he was selected by them the umpire to determine the controverted boundary between New York and the New Haven Colony. He was also for a number of years one of the commissioners or delegates of the United Colonies.

Soon after the settlement of Rehoboth, Captain Willett removed to Wannamoisett, a part of what is now the town of Swansea, where he resided during most of the remainder of his life. A grant of a quarter part of that township (Swansea) was made to him and others. With him was associated Mr. Myles, the first Baptist minister in New England, and they two are justly

[1] *Winthrop's Jour.*, 1, 322. [2] *Old Col. Rec.*

regarded as the founders of Swansea. The manner in which they conducted the settlement of that plantation was just and honorable and reflects much credit on the character of both. Captain Willett always cultivated a friendly intercourse with the Indians wherever he was, and everywhere gained their confidence and good will. Hence he was generally employed by the colony in the purchase of lands from the native chiefs, and besides being the original purchaser of the Rehoboth North Purchase, he was that also of the Taunton North Purchase, and many other tracts of land in the vicinity. He was on particularly friendly terms with Alexander, and his brother the famous King Philip, his home being near Mount Hope, the dwelling place of the latter.

The following order relating to him was passed by the Plymouth Court: —

March 1665-6. In reference to an order of Court bearing date the third day of October 1665, wherein our Honored Governor Major Winslow, Capt. Southworth, and Mr. Constant Southworth were appointed to be a committee in reference to a certain tract of land purchased by Capt. Willett on the north side of Rehoboth, which said order empowereth the said Committee to dispose and settle a proportion of the said lands on the said Capt. Willett as they shall think meet; and the Court do therefore settle and confirm unto him four or five hundred acres of the said lands, to be laid out for him on the Easterly side or end of the said lands, to him and his heirs forever.

This grant or farm in this town, at High Squisset, was laid out to him and recorded in the "Rehoboth North Purchase Books." It lies on both sides of the Seven Mile River, beginning near Newell's tavern and has always borne the name of "Willett's farm." It was a tract of five hundred acres, and with certain meadows and out lots amounted to about six hundred acres, and was given to him as an acknowledgment of his services to the proprietors. It seems to have passed into the hands of his son, Captain Andrew Willett, who sold it some time after his father's death to John Wilkinson the 1st, of Attleborough. In 1720 it was divided into two parts between Captain Samuel Tyler and Joyce Newell, widow of Jacob Newell. This farm was originally laid out with great regularity — in parallel lines — and its subsequent divisions have been preserved in good shape.

Captain Willett married Mary Brown, daughter of Mr. John Brown the 1st, at Plymouth, 6th July, 1636, by whom he had several children: Thomas; Hester, b. 6th July, 1647; Rebecca, d. 2d April, 1652; James, b. November 24, 1649; Andrew; Samuel; Hezekiah, who died 26th July, 1651; Hezekiah 2d, b. 16th November, 1652; Sarah; Martha, etc. His son James married Eliza, daughter of Lieutenant Peter Hunt, of Rehoboth, 17th April, 1673, and continued to live on the paternal estate. Hezekiah 2d married his cousin Anna Brown, daughter of Mr. John Brown, 2d, of Rehoboth, 7th January, 1675, and was killed soon after by the Indians in Philip's War. John Saffin, who had resided in Scituate and Swansea, married Martha Willett. They lived in Boston — where in 1686 he was Speaker of the Assembly of

Massachusetts — and in Bristol, R. I. Samuel Hooker,[1] of Farmington, Conn., married Mary; Sarah married an Eliot, and it is said another daughter married one of the family of the Rev. John Wilson, of Boston, "the Holy Wilson of Cotton Mather's eulogies"; and Hester or Esther married the Rev. Josiah Flint, of Dorchester.

Captain Willett has numerous descendants residing in various parts of the country, several of whom have become distinguished in history. His grandson, Francis, was a prominent man in Rhode Island; another descendant, his great-grandson, of the family of Samuel was Colonel Marinus Willett, who lived in the State of New York, was a distinguished officer in the Revolutionary War — and he had also been mayor of New York City.[2]

After a residence of a few years in New York, Captain Willett returned to his seat in Swansea, where, after a life of varied and distinguished usefulness he died the 4th of August, 1674, at the age of sixty-three. The "Old Colony Records" give the date as the 3d of August, but I have chosen to rely on the inscription upon his gravestone. He was buried in an ancient burying-ground, at the head of Bullock's Cove, in what is now Seekonk, where a rough stone is erected to his memory containing a brief and rudely carved inscription which reads as follows: —

HEAD STONE.

1674

Here lyes y^e^ Body
of y^e^ wor^ll^ Thomas
Willett eſq who died
Avgvſt y^e^ 4^th^ in y^e^ 64^th^
year of his age anno

FOOT STONE.

WHo WAS THE
FIRST MAYOR
oF NEW YORK
& TWICE DID
SVSTAIN Y^T^ PLACE

[1] Baylies' *Memoirs of Plymouth Colony.*

[2] Memoirs of his life have been published by his son, William M. Willett. Colonel Willett had another son, Dr. Marinus Willett, who was one of the founders of the American Tract Society, and his daughter, Miss Anne Willett, has been prominent for her generous and personal interest in the Evangelical Orphan Asylum for Girls in the city of Florence, Italy, being its Directress.

His wife Mary died about 1669, and is buried by his side.[1] Thus the first English Mayor of the first commercial metropolis in America lies buried on a lonely and barren heath in the humble town of Seekonk, at a place seldom visited by the footsteps of man — with naught but the rudest monument to mark the spot.

The following extracts are taken from an account of the Willett family, found in the *Providence Journal* of January 24, 1873. One writer says of Captain Willett: —

He was conversant in the fur and Indian trade of the whole coast of Kennebec to Hudson's River, became very opulent, and settled on a plantation in Swanzey, now Barrington, where remains his grave, six miles below Providence. Being an intelligent and respectable person, he went as a counsellor on board of beloved Colonel Nicholl's fleet, at the reduction of Manhadoes, 1664, and was by him appointed Mayor of the new conquered city. He owned houses in New York and Albany. The Dutch resuming the government, he afterwards returned to his settlement and died in Barrington.

The following "epitaph on my worshipful father-in-law," was written by John Saffin: —

Here lies Grave Willett, whose good name
Did Mount upon the wings of Fame;
Who unto Place did not Intrude,
(A Star of the first Magnitude.)
But 's prudence, pietie and zeale,
For God, in Church and Commonweall,
His reall worth, and Generous Spirit,
Which constantly he did Inherit,
His hospitality and love,
And courteous carriage, like a Dove,
Did so Excell, that all might See
He had attain'd to the First Three.
Now he 's hence gone to his long home,
And taken from the Ill to come —
Liv'd here Desir'd; lamented Dy'd;
Is with his Saviour, Glorified.

The will of Captain Thomas Willett is a very long document, drawn up with minute particularity. It contains legacies to the "overseers" of the instrument, and to the churches of the neighboring towns. Some old servants are also remembered. He then devises his extensive estates in New Plymouth, Swanzey, and Rehoboth to his sons, James, Hezekiah, Andrew, and Samuel, and his Narragansett lands to his grandchildren; but Thomas, son of John and Martha Saffin, is to inherit a double portion. As early as July 4,

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[1] Following are the inscriptions on her gravestones: Headstone — "1669. Here lyeth ye body of the virtuous Mary Willett, wife to Thomas Willett, who died January ye 8 about ye illeg th year of her age, anno." Footstone — "Daughter to the worll John Brown, Deceased." Captain Willett's headstone is some six or seven inches thick, about eighteen inches wide, and stands perhaps two and a half feet high, and is in a very good state of preservation, but the little cemetery is still a barren and neglected spot. It is now in what is called East Providence. For these facts, and the above copy of Captain Willett's inscriptions, I am indebted to Mr. Charles H. Wheeler, of this town, who has recently visited this place of historic interest.— EDITOR.

1659, certain lands in ancient Namcook, afterwards part of the "King's Province," but generally known as Boston Neck, and situated near the present Narragansett Ferry, had been purchased of three sachems by Willett and others. This small part of the Willett property, reserved by its owner as a suitable portion for his grandchildren, is still held by his descendants, while all the other estates have long since been divided and alienated. A singular provision of the will was that if any one of his *sons* (the daughters were all married but one), should marry without the consent of a majority of the five executors, he would by that act forfeit all claims to his inheritance. The Willett farm (where he resided), was the original seat of the great sachem, Miantinomi, and a large bowlder on the farm is still known as "Miantinomi's Rock." On one portion of this farm the celebrated Colonel Whale or Whalley, styled one of King Charles' regicide judges, resided for a time.[1]

The following introduction is entered in the first book of the records of the Rehoboth North Purchase: —

"Whereas, in the year one thousand six hundred sixty and six, a purchase of lands was made by the Inhabitants of Rehoboth and the neighborhood of Annimosett: — the said lands situate on the North side of the Towne of Rehoboth — of Mr. Thomas Prince, Esquire, Major Josiah Winslow, Captain Thomas Southworth Agents of the Government of New Plymouth, the bounds of the said lands fully appearing by a Deed of sale made by the aforesaid gentlemen, to the purchasers thereof, bearing date the tenth of April 1666, which deed hath been inrolled at the Court of New Plymouth according to order of Court. The bounds of the said lands are as followeth, (viz.) by a river called Pawtucket river, on the West, and up the said river unto the Massachusetts line; and on the Northerly side, by the same line, until it cross the ould Roade towards the Bay, where the marked tree stands, and a heape of stones; and thence a mile and halfe East, and from thence by a direct line to the North East corner of the *present* bounds of the towne of Rehoboth, and soe back againe home to the said line between the Governments — Excepting there was reserved out of the said tract of land a farm granted before to Major Josiah Winslow, a farm granted to Captain Thomas Willett, and two hundred acres of land to Mr. James Browne about Snake-hill, and ten acres of Meadow thereabouts; and the Meadow called Blackstone's Meadow the West plaine;[2] and the South neck the quantity of two hundred acres; and fifty acres granted to Roger Ammidown with four acres of meadow; and

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[1] The larger portion of this sketch is as the author prepared it. The extracts from the *Journal* were added by the editor. One or two discrepancies are thus explained.

[2] April 18, 1666. Agreement between the town and Captain Willett as to the location of his lands in the North Purchase. See record in *Bliss' Rehoboth*, p. 61. The lands reserved to Captain Willett in his deed to the R. N. P. were assigned to him on the records and came into the hands of his son, Andrew Willett.

three acres of Meadow to Nicholas Ide; and half an acre to George Robinson; also some Meete proportion of lands for the Indians at Sinnichiteconett; for the use of the said Indians. All the rest of the said lands within the said tract as before bounded, to be equally divided to the purchasers thereof according to their said proportions, (there being Seventy Nine whole shares and a half) being joint purchasers; and the said purchasers have fully discharged and paid the purchase thereof according to their several proportions."

"Mem. That the clause in the *former* page 'to be equally divided to the purchasers thereof' hath reference to the before expressed date (viz.) one thousand Six hundred and Sixty and Six.

"The names of the Purchasers with their Rights to the said Lands before mentioned are those (*no man contradicting*) that are here expressed in the following List."

Capt. Thomas Willett (one share, John Wilkinson's).
Mr. Stephen Paine, Sen., 2 shs. (one that was his own and one that was appointed for John Martin).
Mr. Noah Newman, 1 sh.
Lieut. Peter Hunt, 1 sh.
Mr. James Browne, 1 sh.
Samuel Newman, 1 sh.
John Allen, Sen., 1 sh.
John Woodcock, 1½ sh.
Thomas Estabrooke's ½ sh. (bought of Roger Amidowne).
Thomas Willmot, 2 shs. (one he bought of Jo. Carpenter and one of his own).
Sampson Mason, 1 sh.
Anthoney Perry, 1 sh.
John Butterworth, 1 sh. (this sold to Daniel Jenkes, excepting the meadow).
Philip Walker, 1 sh.
John Ormsby, 1 sh.
Richard Martin, 1 sh.
Stephen Paine, Jun., 1 sh.
Rober Joans, 1 sh.[1]
Obadiah Bowen, 1 sh.
John Pecke, 1 sh.
James Redeway, 1 sh.
Samuel Carpenter, 1 sh.
John Titus, 2 sh. (one that he bought of his mother-in-law, Abigail Carpenter, and one that was his own).
Mr. John Myles, 1 sh.
William Carpenter, 1 sh.
Joseph Pecke, 1 sh.
Thomas Cooper, Jun., 1 sh.
Ensign Henery Smith, 1 sh.
John Reade, Sen., 1 sh.
John Reade, Jun., 1 sh.
Nicholas Pecke, 1 sh.
Elizabeth Hannah and Lydia Winchester, 1 sh. This sould to Dan'l Shepardson.
Daniel Smith, 1 sh.
Jonathan Bliss, 1 sh.
Rice Leonard, 1 sh.
William Saben, 1 sh.
John Perrin, Sen., 1 sh.
George Kendricke, 1 sh.
George Robinson, 1 sh.
John Doggett, 1 sh.
John Fitch, 1 sh.
Richard Bowen, Jun., 1 sh.
Elizabeth Bullucke, 1 sh.
John Miller, Jun., 1 sh.
Robert Fuller, 1 sh.
Robert Wheaton, 1 sh.
Ester Hall, 1 sh.
John Miller, Sen., 1 sh.
Jaret Ingraham, 1 sh.
John Kingsley, 1 sh.
Gilbert Brookes, 1 sh.
Thomas Reade, 1 sh.
Thomas Grant, ½ sh.
Jonathan Fuller, 1 sh.
James Gillson, 1 sh. (bought of Samuel Saben).
Samuel Luther, 1 sh. (This share sold to Mr. Phillip *Squire*.)
Nicholas Tanner, 1 sh.
John Allen, Jun., 1 sh.
Preserved Abell, 1 sh.
Francis Stephens, 1 sh.
Nicholas Ide, 1 sh.
Richard Whittaker, 1 sh.

[1] Robert Jones intended, but spelled as above on the record.

Thomas Cooper, Sen., 1 sh.
Samuel Pecke, 1 sh.
William Buckland, 1 sh.
Joseph Buckland, 1 sh.
Benjamin Buckland, 1 sh.
John Lovell, 1 sh.
Joanna Ide, of New Norwich, halfe a share.
Thomas Ormsby, ½ sh., bought of Richard Bowen, Sen.
John Savage, ½ sh.
Jacob Ormsby, ½ sh. (that was his mother's).
John Polley, 1 sh. (that he had of his father, Jon. Bosworth.)
William Allen, of Prudense, 1 sh. he bought of Nathaniel Paine.
Nathaniel Pecke, 1 sh.
Israel Pecke, 1 sh.
Jonah Palmer, 1 sh.
Robert Miller. 1 sh.
Nathaniel Paine, 1 sh. (¼ of it he bought of Richard Bowen, Sen., and the other of Jeremiah Wheaton.)
Eldad Kinsley, 1 sh.

The aforesaid List and the preface to it was universally agreed upon at a Meeting of the Purchasers, May 28th, 1672, to be entered into the Booke of Records for the North Purchased Lands. This attested to by me,

William Carpenter, Jr., Clerke.

This list of proprietors,[1] as the reader perceives, was made in 1672, by a committee chosen for that purpose.

The first division of lands in the North Purchase was made June 22, 1658. This division was confined exclusively to meadow land. It was made before the lands were purchased, and was evidently intended for the immediate use of the cattle of the inhabitants. It appears by the following extracts from the town records of Rehoboth that the Court had made a grant of the meadows in the North Purchase to the inhabitants of that town, before the rest of the lands were granted, and this division was therefore an authorized one.

February 23, 1657. At a town meeting lawfully warned it was voted, "that all the Meadows lying on the North side of the town, which were given and granted to the Town by the Court, shall be laid out according to person and estate."

"At the same time those men whose names are here subscribed have promised to go to see what meadows they can find on the North side of our Town, that they may notify our town, to their best judgment, what quantity there may be of it, and this they do freely on their own charge. Wm. Carpenter Senior will go 3 days on his own charge, and if he go any more he is to be paid for it. Wm. Sabin, 1 day; Lieut. Hunt, 2 days; Joseph Peck, 1 day; John Peck, 1 day; Henry Smith, 1 day; Wm. Bucklin, 2 days; Robert Fuller, 1 day; John Read, 1 day; Thomas Cooper Junior, 1 day; Francis Stephens, 1 day."

At the same time those men whose names are here subscribed are accepted of the freemen of the town to take up their freedom; namely, Joseph Peck, John Peck, Henry Smith, Robert Fuller, John Fitch, Steven Paine, Jonathan Bliss, Wm. Bucklin, Rice Leonard. Several of these persons afterwards removed to Attleborough.

June 22, 1658. It was voted, "that all the meadow that lies upon the

[1] Many of the shareholders removed to Attleborough; others sold to persons from other places.

North side of the town, that hath been visited by certain men according to the town's order, shall be lotted out, according to person and estate."

"14 of the 9th month, 1661. Lieut. Hunt, and Wm. Sabin were chosen to confer with Mr. Willett to know what he hath done about the North side of the town in the behalf of the town."

"The 28 of the 5 mo. 1662. It was voted that John Woodcock (afterwards of Attleborough) should have two rods of land to build a small house on for himself and his family to be in on the Lord's day in some convenient place near the meetinghouse, and Goodman Paine and Lieut. Hunt were chosen to see where the most convenient place might be for it."

"1658, June 22d. At a town meeting lawfully warned, Lots were drawn for the meadows that lie on the North side of the town, according to person and estate."

April 18, 1666. It was voted by the town "that the late purchasers of land upon the north side of our town shall bear forty shillings in a rate of 5£ and so proportionable in all other public charges."

It was also voted that there should be a three-railed fence set up and maintained between the late purchased land on the north side of the town to be set up on all the end of the plain from Goodman Buckland's lands to the Mill river, "and every man that is interested in the said purchased Lands to bear an equal proportion in the aforesaid fence according to their proportion of Lands."

It was also voted "to make choice of a Committee for the settling and stating of the late purchased Lands on the north side of our town, viz: whether such, as at present seem questionable, are true proprietors of the aforesaid lands; — and the Committee chosen were Capt. Willett with the townsmen and those that stand engaged for the payment of the aforesaid purchased Lands." The committee reported April 23, 1666.

It was also voted by the town "that Mr. Goodman Martin shall enjoy a spot of fresh meadow that lies on the north side of the town lying at the end of the Great Plain, during his life and his wife's, and at their decease to return to the town."

At the same time it was agreed between the town and Captain Willett, "that for the forty acres of meadow that he is to have to his farm, on the north side of the town, he is by agreement made with the town to have High Squisset and Low Squisset. and the bounds of the said Squisset's meadows to be according to the sight of the Surveyors the day that they laid out his farm, that is, Henry Smith and William Carpenter; and he is also to have a piece of meadow at the Seven Mile River near unto the going out at the highway, and six acres of meadow at the Ten Mile River, and what there wants of the six acres in quality is to be made up in quantity — the said six acres of meadow on the Ten Mile River lies by the old highway as we go into the Bay."

"April 23d, 1666. The Committee that was chosen by the town April 18th 1666, at a town meeting, for the stating and settling of the late purchased lands, upon the North side of our town, the aforesaid committee being met together this twenty third of April, we see cause that there shall be seventy six whole shares and equal purchasers in the aforesaid Lands, and six persons that have half shares, which we see cause to add to the seventy six whole shares, so that the whole number of shares amounts to seventy nine shares."

May 19, 1666. At a town meeting lawfully warned, the town concluded to have a meeting upon the last Tuesday in June, "to consider of the meadows on the north side of the town, how they may be disposed of for this present year; it is therefore agreed by this town, that no man shall mow a load or a part of a load of grass, before the town hath disposed of them, upon the penalty of twenty shillings the load or part of a load."

October 16, 1666. At a town meeting it was concluded that the purchased lands on the north side of the town "shall be divided between this and the first of May next ensuing." It was also voted by the town, "that no person shall fall any trees upon the aforesaid lands on the north side of our town before the said lands be divided, upon the penalty of ten shillings for every tree so fallen." The same day John Doggett, John Woodcock, and John Titus were chosen by the town "to see what timber trees are fallen on the late purchased lands on the north side of our town, and they shall have the forfeiture for their pains, and the trees to those that the land shall fall to."

June 22, 1667. At a town meeting it was voted by the town that the meadows lying on the north side of the town "shall be for this present year, as they were the last year."

April 10, 1668. "The town chose a Committee to go and view the meadows that are in the North Purchase and to acre them out, to divide them into three score and eighteen parts and a half, and to mark and bound out each part and put in such swamps as in their prudence they think meet, to be laid out in the said division — provided they do it equally as they can. The said committee are Anthony Perry, Philip Walker, Thomas Wilmot,[1] Nicholas Ide; to be paid by the whole company of purchasers."

May 13, 1668. The town made an agreement with Goodman Allen "that he is to have the twenty acres of Meadow that is laid out by Ensign Smith at Sinecheticonet, and the Meadow called the Parson's Meadow, and all that is within his farm, for his thirty acres of meadow that he purchased of Major Winslow — and also for his full share of meadow on the North Purchase." It was also voted "that the rates upon the North side of the town be lowered, and part taken off, that is to say, whereas the lands upon the North Purchase

[1] Now Wilmarth.

paid 40 shillings of 5 pounds in all rates, that now the said lands shall pay 20 shillings in 5 pounds until the town see cause to alter it."

May 26, 1668. It was voted that John Woodcock "shall have the meadow upon the Ten Mile River between Capt. Willett's meadow and his own Meadow, and another piece that the townsmen shall appoint him that were chosen by the town to acre the meadows in the North Purchase, for two shares of meadow on the N. Purchase."

The 26th of May, 1668, lots were drawn for the meadows[1] in the North Purchase.

The first division of general lands was granted by the proprietors at a meeting held February 9, 1668. Lots were drawn for this division March 18, 1668–69. The previous divisions had been confined to meadow land.

"At a town meeting lawfully warned February 9th 1668, it was voted that there should be Fifty acres of upland laid out on the north side of the town to every share, speedily; and the rest to be laid out with as much conveniency as may be." This was the first general division, and the number of proprietors was eighty-two. In 1685 it was eighty-three, and at another division, November 7, 1699, the number had increased to one hundred and thirty-three. It was voted that there should be a committee chosen "to view where there is good land for the laying out of a division of lands on the north purchase," and that the aforesaid fifty acres to a share should be forthwith laid out, and then lots should be drawn by the aforesaid purchasers according to the agreement.

At a town meeting lawfully warned the 18th of March, 1668–69, "it was voted that there should be fifty acres of land laid out to a share on the North purchased lands."

It was also provided that the purchasers should draw lots for their choice; and that each one should choose his lands successively according to his turn, and give notice to the next in turn; and that if any neglected or refused to make choice and lay out his land in his turn, for the space of three days after notice was given him, he should wait until all others had made choice in regular order.

At this meeting a committee of eight were chosen, any two of whom might act, to see that these rights should not be laid out so as to interfere with highways, previous divisions of meadows, or other lotments. This committee were William Sabin, Nicholas Peck, Samuel Newman, James Reddeway, Thomas Willmot, Samuel Peck, Lieutenant Hunt, Joseph Buckland. Nine purchasers entered a protest against the manner of laying out the lands by *choosing*; namely, Captain Willett, Mr. Myles, William Sabin, Mr. Brown, Deacon Cooper, John Miller, Sen., John Peren, Sen., George Kendricke, William Carpenter.

[1] Granted by the Court previous to the purchase.

"The Names[1] of those that drew for a Division on the North Purchase, 18th March, 1668–9."

John Titus
Joseph Buckland
John Ormsby
Children's Lands[2]
Nath'l Paine
Goody Hide
Rice Leonard
John Allin, Jun.
Nicholas Peck
Ichabod Miller, Jun.
Robert Wheaton
John Doggett
Deacon Cooper
Phillip Walker
Tho. Read
Joseph Peck
John Read, Sen.
Jonathan Bliss
Roger Amidowne
Stephen Paine, Jun.
Thomas and Jacob Ormsby
Richard Bullock
Daniel Smith
John Kingsley
Obadiah Bowing
John Peren, Sen.

Robert Joanes
Will. Buckland
James Gillson
Israil Peck
Anth. Perry
Eldad Kingsley
Tho. Cooper, Jun.
Mr. Myles
Richard Bemis, Jr.
John Fitch
Joseph Carpenter
Preserved Abel
John Woodcock
John Allen, Sen.
Nich. Ide
Capt. Willet
James Reddeway
Sam. Newman
Stephen Paine, Sen.
Jona. Palmer
Robert Miller
Tho. Willmot
Gilbert Brooks
Wid. Carpenter
Left. Hunt
Jaret Ingraham
Francis Stephens

John Read, Jun.
Mr. Newman
Rich. Martin
John Butterworth
George Kendrick
John Lowell
Thomas Grant
Mr. Brown
Nath. Peck
George Robinson
Jonathan Fuller
Jonathan Bosworth
Sam. Peck
Robert Fuller
Nath. Paine, Jr.
Richard Whittaker
Sam. Carpenter
Edward Hall
Nicholas Tanner
John Savage
Will. Saben
Will. Carpenter
Sampson Mason
John Peck
Ben. Buckland
Hen. Smith
Sam. Luther

Complaints were often made that the lands in the North Purchase were rated or assessed too high. There is the following record on this subject: —

At a meeting of proprietors of the North Purchase the 26th of August, 1670, it was voted, "that the townsmen should choose three men to discuss and also to end any difference with such persons as are chosen by the complainers of the provisions of the Rates." The time set to meet was "this day s'en'nit at the meeting house; and if not ended to attend the next Court at Plymouth to defend and answer such complaints as are made against the rating of these lands."

A mile and a half on the south side of this town was granted to Rehoboth, by order of Court, June, 1668.[3]

June, 1668. "This Court have ordered that a tract of land containing a mile and a half lying on the North side of the town of Rehoboth is allowed to be the proper right of the said township. And for such lands as are lying

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[1] See List of Proprietors in 1707, September 16, N. P. Records, vol. 2, p. 3. See List April 14, 1735, vol. 2, p. 133.

[2] Children of Alexander Winchester, deceased.

[3] It was restored to Attleborough in 1710. If it — the North Purchase — belonged to, and was a part of Rehoboth, why did that town ask for an *enlargement* of a mile and a half from that territory when the whole tract belonged to it?

betwixt the Bay line and it is to be accounted within the Constablerick of Rehoboth, until the Court shall order it otherwise. And that such farms as lyeth within the said liberties shall be responsible in point of rating at the Colony's disposal." — *Old Col. Rec.*

There is the following vote concerning this tract in Rehoboth Records: —

November 8, 1670. At a town meeting lawfully warned it was voted that the line should be forthwith run between the North Purchase and the mile and a half given to the town for enlargement.

The committee were "Lieut. Hunt and Ensign Smith, Nicholas Peck and Will. Carpenter."

Committees were also chosen to see that no timber on the north side should be "fallen or drawn away." Great difficulty was experienced in preventing the loss of timber on the undivided lands.

December 26, 1670. It was voted that there should be a town meeting "this day fortnight about ten of the clock in the morning," and that there should be a committee chosen "to draw up such propositions as they think will be most expedient for the settling of the differences on the north side of the town concerning those lands, considering that all the purchasers of the land have not yet given them, Mr. Brown engaging to give notice to all the proprietors of those lands that dwell at Swansea; and that these propositions be tendered at the said town meeting, that, if it were the will of God, there might be a unanimous agreement. The committee chosen were Lieut. Hunt, Ensign Smith, Nathaniel Paine, Nicholas Peck and Anthony Perry."

November 23, 1670. A committee was chosen to meet the treasurer of Taunton to settle the bounds between the North Purchase and Taunton North Purchase. Committee were "Ensign Smith, Wm. Sabin, Wm. Carpenter."

At a meeting of the proprietors, May 28, 1672, it was voted "that for the comfortable and peaceable settlement of the lands and meadows on the North side of the town; — whereas there has been great dissatisfaction in respect of the unequal division of meadows; — and, forasmuch as there was a Committee chosen in the year 1688 for the bounding of the meadows betwixt the Tens; — there shall be a new committee added to them, to make diligent search and take a deliberate view of the meadows and swamps within all the several Tens, with power to add to those Tens which needed amendment, and bound them all; and also to redress any grievance which any particular person suffers. This order is not to take place till after six months." It was provided that the said committee should "bound all the Tens before any more upland lots are laid out, if they do it within two months."

At a meeting of purchasers, February 18, 1684, it was voted that there should be a division of fifty acres to a share in the North Purchase; William Carpenter was chosen surveyor to lay it out. Voted that there should be a meeting of the purchasers to draw lots for said division "the last Tuesday

of June next ensuing." Accordingly, at a meeting held June 29, 1685, lots were drawn for said fifty acres of upland among eighty-three persons.

At a proprietors' meeting, October 31, 1699, it was voted that there should be two divisions of lands in the North Purchase forthwith laid out to the said proprietors according to their rights in said lands, that is, fifty acres to a whole share in both divisions; namely, twenty-five acres to the first division, and twenty-five acres to the second division; "and he that is first in the first division shall be last in the second division," and so on.

At their next meeting, November 7, 1699, the proprietors drew lots for the new division. They had increased at this time to one hundred and thirty-three in number.

In the year 1694 the inhabitants of the North Purchase were incorporated into a township by an Act of the General Court of Massachusetts.

Previous to this time, as has been stated, the North Purchase was within the jurisdiction, but not within the chartered limits, of Rehoboth. It was annexed to that town, for a temporary and special purpose. If it had been a part of the town, there was no need of annexation. The inhabitants were subjected to the municipal authority, and had for the time all the rights of freemen of that town. It was properly a plantation of Rehoboth. It was ordered by Plymouth Court to be within the jurisdiction of that town until it should be incorporated. July 5, 1671. "The Court have ordered that the North Purchase (so called) shall lie unto the town of Rehoboth, until it comes to be a township; and in the meantime to bear the seventh part of all the rates that shall be levied for the public charges of that town; and when the said Purchase shall become a Township by itself, then the said township of Rehoboth to be eased in their rates." — *Old Col. Rec.*

An act raising £4,841 10s. for the whole province was passed October 27, 1694–95, and Attleborough was assessed £12. It was common to provide for the government of these outlying settlements by annexing them to some town having a municipal government or legal status.[1]

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[1] In 1661 Plymouth Court ordered that Rehoboth jurisdiction extend over or "unto Sowamsett." See *Bliss' Rehoboth*, p. 52.

CHAPTER II.

BLACKSTONE.

THE first white inhabitant within the original limits of the town was the celebrated William Blackstone, a man of many peculiarities and a singular history. He was also the first settler and sole progenitor of *Shawmut*, now the site of the great city of Boston. There were two or three individuals at a distance, on Maverick and Thompson's islands in the harbor, apparently having no connection with him.[1] Everything relating to the unique life of this eccentric though amiable man must be interesting not only to the people of this town, but to all who feel an interest in the ancient history of the colonies.

He came to this country from England soon after the Pilgrim Fathers, as early as 1625–26, and settled first at Boston, called by the Indians *Shawmut*, meaning a spring of water. Here he commenced his solitary life, built his house, cultivated his lands, and planted his orchard, where the first apples in Massachusetts were grown. He had undoubtedly occupied the peninsula several years, and alone, prior to the arrival of Governor Winthrop's Company in 1630. They at first located themselves at Charlestown, but finding the water bad, and "liking that plain neck that was then called Blackstone's Neck," they soon removed by invitation to the peninsula, where they found a good spring of water.

Mr. Blackstone had been in England a clergyman of the Established Church, and was a well-educated man; he graduated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, receiving his degree A.B. in 1617, and A.M. in 1621. What the special occasion of his leaving his native country and coming here was, is not wholly known. It is thought by some that he had some connection with Sir Ferdinand Gorges[2] in his enterprise. None have traced him to his birthplace or any home in his native country, for the name is not

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[1] One Walford, lived at Charlestown; Maverick, on what is now East Boston; Thompson, on the island still bearing his name; and Blackstone, at Shawmut, are supposed to have held their lands under Gorges' patent, and thought to have been the pioneers of a projected plantation. See a pamphlet entitled "Blackstone, Boston's First Inhabitant," published in Boston, in 1877.

[2] In 1623 a patent was issued to Robert Gorges, son of Sir Ferdinand Gorges, including ten miles on Massachusetts Bay, thirty inland, and some islands, and it is now said that Blackstone received a right from him, and that he may have come to this country in 1623, with the colonists whom Gorges sent out in that year to establish a plantation at Weymouth. Subsequently Sir Ferdinand Gorges persuaded his son to give up his patent, and in 1629 another was issued to Winthrop, who arrived in 1630, as stated above. See pamphlet above quoted.

a very common one in England.[1] He lived, however, in an age of religious bigotry, intolerance, and persecution, and, "not being able," as he said, "to endure the power of the Lords Bishops," he left his native land and sought an asylum in the wilds of America, where he might enjoy his own opinions unmolested.

The peninsula, as we have seen, was called "Blackstone's Neck," and as first occupant of the place he claimed the whole as his property. After residing a few years with the new settlers of *Shawmut*, he found there was the same intolerant and overbearing spirit among those new associates. They attempted to eject him from his lands under pretence that they were entitled to them by a grant from the English king. Mr. Blackstone declined to have his rights taken from him even by a sceptered hand, saying in his independent and characteristic way, "The King asserteth sovereignty of this New England because John and Sebastian Cabot sailed along the coast without even landing at any place; and if the quality of sovereignty can subsist upon the substratum of mere inspection, surely the quality of property can subsist upon that of actual occupancy, which is the foundation of my claim." Becoming thus very naturally "discontented with the power of the Lords Brethren," he felt compelled to seek another retreat. His claim was recognized by the new settlers, but to how just an extent it is difficult to determine. At one time they decided to set off fifty acres for him "near to his house in Boston, to enjoy forever," but this seems not to have been a satisfactory offer, and finally they purchased the relinquishment of his title, reserving for him his garden and house lot and pasture about six acres in all. According to *Prince's Chronicles*, his cottage stood "on the south side of Charles river mouth, on a point of land called Blackstone's Point," and near a spring.[2] Mr. Blackstone must have been a man of substance, for

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[1] But I have found the following memoranda in one of the ancient local histories of England: John Blaxton, Vicar of Osmington, in Dorset, 1621. In 1650, Mr. John Blaxton incumbent, and had been so twenty-eight years. He was the author of the following work, published in 1634: "The English Usurer, or Usury condemned, by the most learned and famous Divines of the Church of England. Collected by John Blaxton, Preacher of God's Word at Osmington, in Dorsetshire." "London: Printed by John Norton, and are to be sold by Francis Bowman in Oxford. 1634." In 1650-52 "John Blaxton the Vicar, had an augmentation out of Lord Peters' impropriation here." There was a Samuel Blaxton, June 5, 1662. *Hutchin's Dorsetshire*, vol. i, p. 432. These were cotemporaries of our Blackstone. What connection, if any, did they bear to him? There was a John Blaxton in the time of Elizabeth, and one Marmaduke Blaxton was admitted A.M. at Queen's College, and in 1625 "he was a dignitary in the Church of Durham." One John Blackstone, a member of Parliament, seems to have taken an active interest in the early plantations of this State. He was a member of the "Council" which issued patents, and as such, "joined in a power to William Blackstone to deliver seisin under one of its patents." It is not positively known if relationship between these two existed, but it may with foundation be so conjectured. See pamphlet before quoted.

[2] It is now the accepted fact that Winthrop's Company acknowledged Blackstone's claim, under the Gorges patent, to the territory subsequently granted to them, and so purchased his right to the territory to which he had invited them in their sore distress, when fatal sickness assailed them at Charlestown. Blackstone was admitted a freeman in 1631; in 1633 the fifty acres of land was set off to him near his house, and in 1634 "he released all except six acres in a general release of the whole peninsula." This fifty acres, his "park and pasture," mentioned in the deposition of Odlyn as

in 1628 his share of a levy made to defray the expenses of "the campaign against Morton at Merry Mount" was twelve shillings, a large sum for those days, and though the smallest of the several levies made, was more than a third of that of the whole town of Salem.

With the purchase money for his lands he bought a "stock of cows," which he carried with him when he removed to his new settlement on the Pawtucket River. Instead of contending with his neighbors he fled from their society and persecutions. It was in 1634 that he sold his right and title in the peninsula to the inhabitants of Boston, each one paying him six shillings, and some of them more.

The following document, quoted in Shaw's History of Boston, gives some of the particulars of this purchase: —

The deposition of John Odlyn, aged about 82 years; Robert Walker, aged about 78 years; Francis Hudson, aged about 66 years; and William Lytherland, aged 76 years. These deponents being antient dwellers and inhabitants of the town of Boston, from the time of the first planting thereof, do jointly testify and depose, that in or about the year of our Lord sixteen hundred and thirty four, the then present inhabitants of said town, (of whom the Hon. John Winthrop, Esq. Governor of the Colony, was chiefe), did treate and agree with Mr. William Blackstone for the purchase of his estate and right in any lands lying within the said neck of land, called Boston, and for said purchase agreed that every householder should pay six shillings, which was accordingly collected — none paying less, some considerably more; and the said sum was paid to Mr. Blackstone, to his full content. Reserving unto himself about six acres of land on the point, commonly called Blackstone's Point, on part whereof his then dwelling-house stood. After which purchase, the town laid out a place for a Training Field, which ever since, and now is used for that purpose, and for the feeding of cattle: Walker and Lytherland further testify, that Mr. Blackstone bought a stock of cowes with th money he received, and removed near Providence, where he lived till the day of his death. Sworn to the 10th of June, 1684, before S. Bradstreet, Governor, and Samuel Sewall, Assistant.

Mr. Blackstone received £30 for his right to the peninsula as appears by the following record: The "10th day of the 9 mo. 1634." Voted that a rate be made, namely: "a rate for £30 to Mr. Blackstone."

Reckoning March[1] the first month, this assessment was made in November. The purchase of course was made previous to this date, and Blackstone, in all probability, removed early in the subsequent spring. We can hardly conceive the difficulties of such a journey at that time. No highways opened a passage for him, and the Indian paths led in varying directions. No sign-posts pointed a guiding finger for the traveler; he must find his way unaided, and, more than that, guide his wayward cattle and transport his household goods. How this was done we cannot tell, but it was in some way successfully accomplished.

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having been made into a "training field," was without doubt Boston's beautiful Common. His orchard was close by, and his house probably stood on the site "bounded by Beacon, Walnut, and Spruce Streets." Beyond the deposition of Odlyn, one of Anne Pollard, the first of Winthrop's colonists to leap ashore, which was taken in 1711, confirms the boundaries of Blackstone's property, as do his deed to Richard Pepys of six acres, and various deeds and wills relating to the same for a hundred years after his departure to Attleborough.

[1] The year, according to Old Style, commenced March 25, Pope Gregory's correction of 1582 not being adopted by the English Parliament until 1751, more than a century later than this date.

It is said that he resided in *Shawmut* about ten years, and the authority may be relied on as quite accurate. One Lechford, an Englishman, who visited America in 1637, and published his writings in London in 1641, says: "One Master Blaxton, a minister went from Boston, having lived there *nine* or *ten* years, he lives neere Master Williams, but is far from his opinions." In 1635, then, he removed about thirty-five miles to another retreat still farther in the wilderness. This place[1] was on the banks of the Pawtucket River — which now bears his name — and on the east side of the river, his lands adjoining it. It was within the ancient limits of Attleborough, in that part called the Gore, *now* Cumberland, R. I. Writers have seemed to misunderstand the facts with regard to his residence. Blackstone never lived in Rhode Island. After his removal from Boston, he located, lived, and died within the territory of Plymouth, or Old Colony. The boundaries are different from what they were when he lived and died. Cumberland was not set off to Rhode Island till 1747, more than one hundred and ten years after he located himself in the Rehoboth North Purchase. It was seventy years after his death before the change in the line between the two States. The Pawtucket River was then the boundary between the Colonies, and Blackstone was this side the river, and the territory which he occupied and cultivated, and which contains his grave, was in Massachusetts.[2] Some historians forget the discretionary powers of the Royal Commissioners and their arbitrary proceedings under their "Commissions by order of the King in Council."

This time, 1635, was about ten years before the settlement of Rehoboth, and a few years before that of Providence, for it was in 1636 that Roger Williams came to Seekonk, which place he was obliged to leave, going from there to the place which was later Providence. Here in this secluded forest Blackstone found a congenial home amid the solemn silence of nature. Here he rebuilt a house, replanted orchard and garden, surrounding them with a park for his daily walk, and here he laid out his fields for cultivation. Here he could indulge his love for meditation, enjoy the companionship of nature and his much loved animals, with his books and studies to charm the loneliest hours. Here in this quiet spot, this peaceful solitude on the banks of a gently flowing river, he lived the remaining forty years of his life, and here for more than two hundred years he has slept in the more peaceful, more profound silence of the grave.

His dwelling-house, which he called "Study Hall," was a few rods from the banks of the river, near the hill which ascended by a gentle slope, and his

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[1] It was included in the R. N. P., embraced by the boundaries of this town when it was incorporated and so remained for more than a century.

[2] This territory was called the "Attleborough Gore," because the tract which was afterwards named Cumberland commenced at a point on the east shore of Pawtucket River (now the Blackstone), and ran a due north line to the Massachusetts Colony line, cutting or dividing Attleborough into two nearly equal parts, making Cumberland in the form of a fan or gore — a triangle, with its south point on the river — spreading on the Bay line about seven miles.

orchard was just east of the hill. This eminence he called "Study Hill," a name it long retained. The place is about three miles above Pawtucket, in the present town of Lonsdale, where the late Colonel Simon Whipple resided. The Indian name of the place was *Wawepoonseag*, the place of nets or snares, *wawe* meaning a goose. This name is mentioned in the "Plymouth Records" in describing the boundaries of the North Purchase, in 1661: "From Rehoboth, ranging upon Pawtucket River, to a place called by the natives *Wawepoonseag*,[1] where our Blackstone now sojourneth." His title to the lands which he occupied was respected by the Plymouth government. According to the "Old Colony Records," on "March 5th, 1671, Mr. Stephen Paine, Sen. of Rehoboth, and Mr. Nicholas Tanner were appointed by the Court to see Mr. Blackstone's land laid forth according to the grant." After his death the government ordered them recorded to him.

For many years Mr. Blackstone must have lived in complete isolation and seclusion, for his abode was far from human habitations or the haunts of his fellow-men. Stray Indians may have occasionally visited him in their hunting and fishing excursions, but beyond such infrequent visits he was probably companionless. He certainly tested thoroughly the advantages, if such there be, of a solitary life; but at last, possibly because of approaching age, but more probably because he was true to the instincts of our nature and the dictates of the human heart, he decided that "it is not good for man to be alone," and "he sighed for some one to enjoy the solitude with him." What soft persuasions he whispered into the ear of Sarah Stevenson which induced her to forsake the society of relatives and friends in Boston to become the constant companion of the sage of the wilderness, history has not revealed; but ancient records have told us that they were married, July 4, 1659, "by John Endicott, Governor." Blackstone's lonely dwelling was thus enlivened by the presence of woman, and one son was the fruit of the union. The life, if retired and so far from such markets as the towns then afforded, was not of necessity unvaried or frugal. Milk and meat were obtained from the herds, fish from the river, game from the forest, and these, with the fruits and vegetables raised on the fields, afforded abundant food.

Mrs. Blackstone was the widow of John Stevenson, of Boston, who had by her at least three children: Onesimus, born 26th 10th mo. 1643; John, born 7th mo. 1645; (baptized 28th September, 1645); James, born October 1st, 1653. The second son, John Stevenson, lived with his mother after her marriage with Mr. Blackstone, and after their decease continued at the same place during the remainder of his life. Mrs. Blackstone died in June, 1673. The following is found in the Rehoboth Records: "Mrs. Sarah Blackstone,

[1] It is supposed by a writer in the Mass. Hist. Coll. to be properly the name of a brook, now called Abbott's Run, which enters the river not far from the site of Study Hall. It is said by tradition that Mr. Blackstone had a servant whose name was Abbott, to whom he gave the land on this "run" now bearing that name.

the wife of Mr. William Blaxton, was buried about the middle of June 1673." Many of the ancient records mention the day of the burial, but not that of the death of persons.

Mr. Blackstone survived his wife only about two years, and died May 26, 1675, a few weeks before the commencement of the great Indian War, thus having escaped witnessing the horrors of that awful period and the complete destruction which awaited his "fair domain." He was always on good terms with the Indians. Miantonimo, the nephew of Canonchet king of the Narragansetts, Ocamsequin, Massasoit king of the Wampenoags, Canonchet, and King Philip were his friends, and through his instrumentality and influence hostilities may have been averted. He was of the "age of fourscore," at his death, and the record on the Rehoboth book of his burial is "Mr. William Blaxton buried the 28th of May, 1675."

The name has been written in several ways, but Blaxton was the form he chose. As written now it has become so fixed upon the records of the country that it would be inexpedient to change it, and the modern orthography is the more agreeable of the two. Blackstone had lived in New England about fifty years, ten at Shawmut and forty at this place, and was quite advanced in years. A brief notice of his death is furnished by his friend, Roger Williams. At the date of June 13, 1675, he says: "About a fortnight since your old acquaintance, Mr. Blackstone, departed this life in the fourscore year of his age. Four days before his death he had a great pain in his breast and back and bowels; afterwards, he said he was well, had no pain, and should live, but he grew fainter, and yielded up his breath without a groan."[1] Thus died this patriarch of the wilderness.

Around him was still the wilderness when death snatched him from the sylvan retreat which he loved; but, though the footsteps of men were fast approaching, how would he be astonished to behold the region around it — the place which he once thought secure from the haunt of men, now swarming with an industrious and thriving population! How would he grieve to find the stream, whose placid waters as they flowed by his dwelling he delighted to contemplate, now interrupted by numerous water-works, and the silence which then reigned around him now disturbed by the buzz of thousands of spindles! To what ignoble purposes is his classic stream now devoted! What a contrast! It is a change which the peace-loving spirit of Blackstone could not endure. Did he seek for solitude to-day, he must drive his herd for many a weary mile, beyond the "Great Lakes," over the 'Father of Waters," never resting until he reached the wilds of the Rocky Mountains, or some quiet corner of the great plains of the far West.

Mr. Blackstone left a considerable property, as may be seen from the following inventory, taken May 28, 1675. "This was taken but two days

[1] *4th, Mass. Hist. Coll. 6-299.*

after his death," says Bliss, in his History of Rehoboth, "and was a common practice, owing to the condition of the times."

REAL ESTATE NOT PRIZED.

Sixty acres of land, and two shares in meadows in Providence. The west plain, the south neck, and land about the house and orchard, amounting to two hundred acres, and the meadow called Blackstone's Meadow.

The following is the personal property: —

LIBRARY.

3 Bibles, 10s.; 6 English books in folios, £2	£2 10s.
3 Latin books, in folio, 15s.; 3 do., large quarto, £2	2 15s.
15 small quarto, £1 17s. 6d.; 14 small do., 14s.	2 11s. 6d.
30 large octavo, £4; 25 small do., £1 5s.	5 5s.
22 duodecimo	1 13s.
53 small do., of little value	13s.
10 paper books	5s.
	15 12s. 6d.
Remainder personal	40 11s.
Total personal	£56 3s. 6d.

"This estate (the movables) was destroyed and carried away by the natives," says a marginal note on the Plymouth Colony Records. This library contained one hundred and eighty-four volumes, certainly a large library to be in the possession of a private gentleman of that day in the wilds of America. The historian will always painfully regret the destruction of those "paper books," which were probably manuscripts, and must have contained the meditations of this solitary thinker, and might have revealed the mysteries of his strange residence in the New World. What a treasure was lost by the fire-brand of the savage! How interesting we should find a mere catalogue of those volumes — the associates of his retirement, the joy and solace of his long life! We know his was a mind and spirit which could not brook the tyranny of men; but what other causes than those known, if any, contributed to his removal to this country will probably always be a profound secret. We can hardly imagine what strong influence there was which could have moved him to forsake his home and all his kindred without the hope of meeting them again; what could have induced such a man, with his tastes and pursuits, to leave the halls of learning and the cultivated society of old England, to become a hermit in New England.

He was by no means a misanthrope, but a man of natural benevolence, who took this mode of indulging his love for solitude and securing the unrestrained enjoyment of his own sentiments and tastes. He did not shun man because he hated him, but because he loved solitude more than society. He was fond of study and contemplation, and here he could enjoy both. His independent and original mind and character held nothing in common with the dogmatical and persecuting spirit of the age, and he determined to escape

its presence and influence and avoid the theological controversies of the day. He was not idle, though alone. He cultivated his garden and reared his orchard with his own hands. He is said to have been devoted to his books, and though meditative in his habits, yet cheerful in his disposition. Though for so long a time a hermit, he was certainly not morose or disagreeable, and enjoyed intercourse with his kind if it could be peaceable.

He frequently visited Roger Williams, the father of Rhode Island, being only about six miles away from him, and it is said he was also a visitor at times at Richard Smith's fine old mansion, which is "still at Wickford on the Narragansett shore, which was also a favorite resort of Roger Williams." It is understood by all antiquarians that he preached for Mr. Williams — to his audience and people. They differed on certain theological points, but both being decided "tolerationists," they "agreed to disagree," and so harmonized, their relations being of the most intimate and friendly kind. One says of Mr. Blackstone: "Though a non-conformist, and detesting prelacy, his canonical coat, which he continued to wear here, shows he was still attached to the English Church, and regarded himself as a teacher of its tenets." In Johnson's Wonder Working Providence, the writer speaks of him as "retaining no simbole of his former profession but a Canonicall Coate." The Episcopal Church very naturally claimed him as its son; though while here it is to be presumed he was not within its fold, as Episcopalians could hardly have been numerous enough at that time in his vicinity to have formed an exclusive audience, and there seems no reason to doubt his having joined with that of his friend, preaching there and in the neighboring towns. It has been thought by some that he settled in the "Gore" with the special design of either planting or extending the Church of England; but there seems to be no proof to substantiate such an idea, while there is strong evidence that the same motives and experiences which partially, at least, induced him to leave England induced him to emigrate again after reaching these shores.

Among other anecdotes, it is related of Blackstone that he tamed a bull, it is said of cream color, which he used to ride on his journeys to Boston, Providence, and elsewhere to visit friends; but this cannot be considered a proof of eccentricity. In order not to misjudge the character of the early settlers, we must consider the circumstances in which they were placed. Among isolated settlers of that period it was a common practice to train such animals to carry burdens of all kinds — a practice not entirely extinct at the present time. If there were horses in the settlements at that age, they were rare, and would have been of little use or value, for there were no carriage roads, no carriages. It excited no curiosity to see a person riding such an animal, and many instances of a similar nature are known. A well-known instance is at the time of the wedding of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins. "On proceeding to the nuptials," it is said, "he covered his bull with a

handsome piece of broadcloth, and rode on his back; but on the return he seated his bride upon the animal, and walked by her side, leading the bull by a rope fixed in his nose ring."

Mr. Blackstone "was also remarkable," says Mr. Baylies,[1] "for his love of children." When he visited Providence, he carried apples from his orchard to give to children — the first they had ever seen,[2] and the first probably ever raised in what is now Rhode Island. At a centennial celebration once held in Boston under the direction of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a present of apples was sent to their table from Cumberland, said to have grown on the trees which grew from the sprouts of those in Blackstone's orchard. Some of the trees planted by his own hands were living a hundred and forty years after they were set out. In 1646 there was an apple named after him. In Historical Records, vol. 2, p. 332: "Aug. 12, 1646, Blackstone's apples gathered"; perhaps propagated from apples which he had originated at Shawmut. Some writer says "he had the first of that kind called yellow sweetings that were ever in the world, perhaps, the richest and sweetest apples of the whole kind." He was also said to be fond of roses, which he grew at least in Shawmut. In 1836 three apple trees were standing in the meadow near the site of Study Hall, and two of them bore apples.

The quiet of Study Hall was unbroken for many years; but after a while ts lonely dweller heard the distant footsteps of the nearer coming of the approaching multitude. He suffered some encroachment from pioneer settlers. His situation at the "Wading Place" on the Pawtucket River was a pleasant one, and attracted the cupidity of men. John Allen laid claim to some part of the "West Plaine," which Blackstone himself claimed as his own, and occupied as a part of his territory on which he had settled. Allen had probably laid out and enclosed a part of the occupation of Blackstone, and the pulling up of his fence, etc., was to test the claim of Blackstone to the title. Allen did not appear, probably not recognizing the jurisdiction of the Court.

The following is a record of the complaint from the Old Colony Records, B. 7, p. 155: —

John Allen Sen. of Swansey, complains vs. Mr. William Blackstone, in an action of the case, to the damage of £20, for molesting him in his just rights, by spoyling of his grass, pulling up of his fence, and destroying of his hay, upon his land which he had of the County, lying on the westerly side of the Western Plaine, from the said William Blackstone, which was done in the latter end of November, in the year 1667 — The Jury fined for the plf. six pounds damage, and the costs of the suite.

Judgment was granted to the plf. according to the Verdict.

Blackstone, when he settled down at Wawepoonseag, on emigration from

[1] *Memoirs of Plymouth Colony* — which is a work of great interest, embodying a large amount of historical information on the Old Colony.

[2] *Callender's Discourse.*

Shawmut, supposed he was within the limits of the Massachusetts Colony — though on stating the boundaries it fell within the jurisdiction of Plymouth. Such claimants disturbed him, and he complained to the government of Massachusetts that the inhabitants of Plymouth Colony were interfering with his rights, and petitioned for protection against intruders. The difficulty, whatever it was, was soon adjusted, for we hear of no further complaint or interference, and the Plymouth Colony treated him with the utmost courtesy and regard to his rights. They recognized his title to these lands he had occupied, and divided them all among his heirs.

Blackstone had occupied more than thirty years before the Rehoboth settlers purchased the Indian title to the Attleborough Gore in which he lived, and this was about ten years previous to the settlement. It is reasonable to suppose that he satisfied the Indians for his claim to his premises, as that region was a frequent resort of the natives for fishing and hunting, and was on the Indian path to the crossing of the Pawtucket or wading place of the river. They appeared to be on friendly terms with him.

Just how soon settlers began to approach his seat and intrude upon his solitude is not positively known, but after the establishment of Seacunke the inhabitants of that place occasionally passed this way to Providence, crossing the river near Blackstone's house. At a meeting held December, 1650, it was voted "to have a convenient way four rods wide to be made by Edward Smith, to be for the town's use, or any that shall have occasion to pass from town to Providence, or to Mr. Blackstone's." The old Mendon road also passed here, as at this place was the then only passable crossing of the river. Previous to his death lands were laid out adjoining his estate, as the names of several appear on the records. John Fitch and John Fitch, Jr., had lands near and the former's grave is mentioned with other names, including the "Parson's Meadow."

The history of the stern realities of the old colonial times has now and again a spicing of romance. It was long believed that Blackstone had an only daughter who was borne away from the abodes of society, — educated by her father alone, — who had grown up in communion with nature and was graced with the simplicity of nature's charms, a child of the forest and the field, a flower of the wilderness; and it was supposed she married John Stevenson. This statement is erroneously made in the Massachusetts Historical Collection. This was a too tempting subject for the novelist. In a fictitious work in two volumes published many years ago and called "Humors of Utopia," a daughter of Blackstone was one of the principal characters. It seems almost sacrilege to lay violent hands on such a picture. But in this matter-of-fact world "the gay frost-work of fancy" must often be dissolved by the light of truth. She had no existence except in imagination. In the old records John Stevenson is called the son-in-law of Blackstone instead of stepson, and that is the only foundation for the supposition regarding his daughter.

Mr. Blackstone left one son, John Blackstone, who, it is supposed, "settled finally somewhere near New Haven." Of him history says little or nothing, but by diligent research I have ascertained a few particulars. He was a minor when his father died, and had guardians appointed by the court. On Old Colony Records for June 1, 1675, is the following: "Lieut. Hunt, Ensign Smith and Mr. Daniel Smith are appointed and authorized by the Court to take some present care of the estate of Mr. William Blackstone deceased, and of his son now left by him; and to see that the next Court he do propose a man to the Court to be his guardian; which in case he do neglect, the Court will then see cause to make choice of one for him." October 27, 1675, "Mr. Nathaniel Paine and Mr. Daniel Smith are appointed and approved by the Court, to be guardians unto John Blackstone, the son of Mr. William Blackstone deceased." *Same records.*

He lived on his inheritance till 1692, when he sold his lands to David Whipple.

DEED[1]

To all to whom this deed of sale shall come, John Blaxton of Rehoboth in the Co. of Bristoll, formerly in the Colony of New Plymouth — but now of Mass. in New England, Shoemaker, sendeth Greetg. for a valuable ——— of this County in hand, and paid to him by David Whipple, husbandman, inhabitant of the town of Providence in the Narragansett Bay in New England, sells &c, his house and lands, (that is to say) his mansion house and ——— on the east side of the River, called Pawtucket River, and lying and being within the precincts of Rehoboth aforesaid, 150 a. and is situated on the Plaine c. d the West Plaine, b. d to the northward the land of Isaac Allen, to the southward the land of John Stephenson, to the w. d Pawtucket Rr. to the E. d part of it to the land of John Stephenson, and part of it to the highway, and part of it the Undivided land, with 20 a. allowed for a highway, &c. &c. the latter b. d Southward by a *small run of water* and 2 a. on the westirly side of the Country highway *next the house.*

Dated Sept. 10, 1692 Ack'd Oct. 26, 1692 John Blaxton (‡)

Witnessed by Tho. Oliver, Anthony Sprague } Before John Easton Gov. By Wm. Carpenter Town Clerk. Rec'd Dec. 7, 1692.

Soon after this sale John Blackstone removed to Providence, and for a while contented himself with the humble occupation of a shoemaker. There it is probable he married his wife Katherine, as there is no record of his marriage in this town. He continued to reside there until 1718 when he returned to Attleborough, and, with his wife, was legally warned out of town. For what cause does not appear, but may be conjectured. He had probably squandered his property, for tradition says he inherited but a small share of his father's prudence, and this was a precautionary measure on the part of the town against future liability for support — a customary proceeding in those days. In Bliss' History of Rehoboth one John Blackstone appears as a non-resident proprietor of that town in 1689. How this property was

[1] The original deeds, with John Blackstone's signature, are still in existence. They were in the possession of Mr. John Whipple, of Cumberland, R. I., but are now in possession of the R. I. Hist. So.

disposed of does not appear, but doubtless it was wasted in the same manner as the rest of his inheritance. He is presumed to be the person mentioned in the records, as no other of that name has been known in this part of the country.

It was generally supposed by historians that the family was extinct, and that the blood of Blackstone "runs not in the *viens* of a single human being." Recent research, however, has led to the belief that the son removed to Branford, Conn., and settled on a neck of land not far from New Haven, where several families of that name have lived for many years. As John Blackstone disappeared from Attleborough, it is probable that he removed and settled there. It has been said there was a family in that vicinity of that name, who lived in seclusion for many years — an additional proof of the probable truth of the supposition as to the family. A John Blackstone, supposed to be the grandson of William, died, and was buried there January 3, 1785.

This supposition of the author is pretty thoroughly substantiated. There are a number of Blackstone's descendants living in Connecticut, and in the State of New York, some of whom have been prominent men. One of Branford has been a member of both branches of his State Legislature, and his son has been mayor of Norwich, Conn., and is a leading man in that city. The John Blackstone who *died* January 3, 1785, was "aged 85 years, eleven months, and 15 days." He could not, as the figures show, have been the son of William Blackstone, and must therefore have been grandson. The grandson of this John thus writes of him: "When he came to Branford, he was entirely destitute of property of any kind; and tradition says, that he left his father's home in England in consequence of difficulty with his parents about property, and that his father and mother were very partial to a brother-in-law of his." This tradition, though doubtless attached to the wrong person, yet proves quite clearly the fact that the Branford Blackstones are direct descendants of William. As we have seen, the first John squandered his property, and seems to have been a rather worthless fellow. His step-brother, Stevenson, was, on the contrary, thrifty and industrious, and devoted to his parents. Very probably there was trouble in the family or a "difficulty" on his part over this fact, as one cause of the son's leaving home. The son of such a man as he proved to be would naturally be destitute of money until he had made it for himself, and the fact that the John of Branford was poor is but another proof that he was really the grandson of our first settler. Tradition cannot always be relied upon for exactness, therefore it is not strange that facts relating to father and grandfather had all been fixed upon the grandson. The latter, however, seems to have inherited the thrift of his grandfather, for he became a successful man.

Soon after arriving at Branford he went to sea, following that occupation for a number of years. He became master and owner of a vessel, and

carried on a trade with the West Indies, and finally owned several vessels which he lost during the French War. He subsequently became a farmer at Branford, and the proprietor of a large landed estate which has been handed down from father to son for four or five generations.[1] It is scarcely possible that two distinct families of the same name could have settled in the same town at about the same date, both possessing such similar traditions, and doubt as to the identity of the Branford Blackstones can now scarcely obtain.

John Stevenson, as has been stated, came with his mother when she married Mr. Blackstone. He was then about fourteen years old, and he lived with them till their death. He came into possession of a part of his stepfather's ("father-in-law's") estate, as appears by the following order of Plymouth Court, passed June 10, 1675, about two weeks after Blackstone's decease: —

Whereas the Court is informed that one whose name is John Stevenson, son-in-law to Mr. William Blackstone, late deceased, was very helpful to his father and mother in their lifetime, without whom they could not have subsisted as to a good help and instrument thereof, and he is now left in a low and mean condition, and never was in any measure recompensed for his good service aforesaid, and if, (as it is said at least) his father-in-law engaged to his mother at his marriage with her, that he should be considered with a competency of land out of the said Blackstone's land then lived on, which hath never yet been performed; and forasmuch as the personal estate of the said William Blackstone is so small and inconsiderable, that he the said Stephenson cannot be relieved out of it; this Court, therefore, in consideration of the premises, do order and dispose fifty acres of land unto the said John Stevenson, out of the lands of the said William Blackstone, and five acres of meadow to be laid out unto him by Ensign Henry Smith, and Mr. Daniel Smith and Mr. Nathaniel Paine, according as they shall think meet, so as it may be most commodious to him or as little prejudiced to the Estate of Mr. William Blackstone as may be. By order of the Court for the jurisdiction of New Plymouth. — *Old Col. Rec.*

The bounds of this grant are recorded in the Records of the North Purchase, Book 1, p. 47. Extracts are made for the gratification of those who may wish to know the situation of his lands: —

Imp. Fifty acres of upland lying upon Pawtucket River, most of it upon the South Neck, being part of that land that was left for Mr. William Blackstone and granted by the Court to John Stevenson: bounded to the eastward the land of John Fitch and the Common; westerly, Pawtucket River, and Southerly; to the northward, the land of John Blackstone; it being 106 rods long.

The five-acre lot of meadow mentioned in the grant is also recorded as laid out by the commissioners: —

1st. Two acres of meadow adjoining to the said lands lying in two pieces; one piece within the former tract of land, and the other by the river side upon the Southernmost end of it.

2d. Three acres of fresh meadow lying at the northeast corner of the meadow commonly known by the name of Blackstone's Great Meadow,[2] from a white oak tree marked, and so

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[1] See a pamphlet called "The Blackstone Family," etc., published in Norwich, Conn., in 1857, by a descendant, Lorenzo Blackstone, formerly mayor of that city.

[2] Often called in the records "The Parson's Meadow."

through the breadth of the meadow to the Run, the Run bounding it to the northards; westward, the meadow of John Blackstone: eastward, the swamp; southward, the upland.

There is another tract which he probably purchased: —

Fifty acres of upland, more or less, bounded east the land of Ensign Nich. Peck and Rob. Miller; north, the land of Sam. Carpenter; west, a highway four rods wide (between John Blackstone's land and this lot) and a little piece of common land; south, coming near John Fitch's grave,[1] to the Common.

There is to be taken out of this lot a highway 2 rods wide next to Sam. Carpenter's land to meet with the highway at the east end of the said Carpenter's lot.

Likewise 10 acres of land, allowed to John Stevenson by the king's jury, for land for highways, taken out of his land, lying on the southerly side of Abbott's Run, etc.

Another record of land commences thus: —

Likewise two acres of land that I took up adjoining to my own land, at the southerly end of it, which I had in exchange with my brother John Blackstone, etc.

To gratify the curious, the boundaries of John Blackstone's lands are added, by which the precise location of his father's estate may be ascertained:

Imp. A hundred and fifty acres of upland, swamp, and meadow ground, more or less, containing the West Plain (commonly so called) and land adjacent; bounded, to the northward, the land of Isaac Allen; to the southward, the land of John Stevenson; to the westward, Pawtucket river; to the eastward, the land of John Stevenson, the highway, and the undivided land; there running a country highway through it to Pawtucket river, being four rods wide.

Likewise a parcel of fresh meadow commonly known by the name of Blackstone's Meadow, being eight acres, bounded to the eastward, the meadow of John Stevenson, &c.

Likewise twenty acres (laid out to John Blackstone, granted to him by the king's jury for a way taken through his farm to *Pattucket* River,) running 76 rods N. W. and by W. and 42 rods S. W. and by S. bounded round by the undivided land; this tract lying near the new road to Dedham.

Likewise two acres of land be it more or less, which he had upon exchange with his brother John Stevenson, lying adjoining to his farm, being bounded to the Highway easterly, and his own farm westerly, and southerly by a small run of water; this land lies on the westerly side of the Country Highway next the House; and in consideration of it John Stevenson had two acres of what John Blackstone was to have allowed by the King's Jury for the highway through his land to Providence, and John Stevenson had this two acres at the Southerly end of his first fifty acre lot. — *Records R. N. Purchase*, Book 1, page 153.

Stevenson acquired a taste for solitary life by living with Blackstone, and resided here (it is believed alone) till his death. There is no evidence of his ever having been married. His time was devoted to the cultivation of his lands and the pleasures of hunting. He died September 16, 1695. His brother, James Stevenson, of Springfield, was appointed his administrator, who returned an inventory October 11, 1695, from which it appears that his whole estate was valued at £57 5s. 2d. "His house, lands, and meadows 1 50. His gun, cutlass, and cartouch box 1 0, 18, 0," etc.

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[1] John Fitch owned a half share in R. N. P. Laid out early two fifty-acre lots. He was on a committee in Rehoboth, February 23, 1657. See *R. N. P. Rec.*, vol. 1, p. 45. "John Fitch was a volunteer at 'Pierce's fight' in the spring of 1676, captured by the Indians and tortured at 'Nine Men's Misery' at Camp Swamp near Blackstone's homestead."

This is all the account which I can find of the first settler within the bounds of the North Purchase. But his name will be preserved in perpetual remembrance, for it is inseparably attached to that noble river which flows past the site of his ancient and solitary dwelling. His name is also transferred to works of art and has been assumed by towns and banks, factories, and the streets of our cities. He has become a prominent historic character in the colonization of New England, and a striking figure on the canvas of its history, with just enough mystery about his life to attract and interest the reader.

The valley of the Blackstone has become celebrated as a manufacturing district, and contributes by the advantages of its water power to the wealth and industry of New England. Hardly could Blackstone — the lover of undisturbed solitude — have dreamed when he forsook the peninsula of Boston and built his lonely dwelling on the banks of this placid stream, that his peaceful retreat would be so soon the scene of industry and the abode of a numerous population, and its silence broken by the busy works of art! Were his spirit permitted to revisit the scene of his former enjoyments, he would be obliged to penetrate a new wilderness, to form a new garden, and plant a new orchard and to seek in a more distant region a spot congenial to his taste.

Everything in relation to Blackstone is interesting to the public; I have, therefore, been minute in this description. It could never have occurred to him who, to avoid the notice of men, sought the shades of solitude, that future ages would take so deep an interest in his history, that he would be an object of minute research to the antiquarian, and that every circumstance connected with his life which could be rescued from the hand of oblivion would be sought out with so much avidity.

The place which he chose for his residence was a truly beautiful and romantic spot, such as a recluse and a lover of nature would select. The place where his house stood was a small hill the surface of which would make an acre or more; on the east was a gradual ascent, but on the west it rose abruptly from the river to the height of sixty or seventy feet; there the Blackstone wound gracefully at its base, forming a slight curve at a short distance south of the hill. The margin of the river was formerly three rods at least west from the hill, but the river has since then enlarged its channel at this place, and it finally washed the very base of the hill, as if attracted to the spot by a grateful remembrance of him who first sought its banks and loved its stream and whose honored name it now bears.

The summit of the hill commanded a fine view of the "valley of the Blackstone," to the distance of more than a mile on the south. On the east was a delightful and fertile valley consisting of a few acres which opened to the south on the borders of the meadow, and was bounded on the east and northeast by a gentle eminence, on the top of which ran the "Mendon road,"

so often mentioned in the ancient land records. This valley was cultivated by the hands of Blackstone; here was his orchard, where the author has seen the stumps of apple trees, cut down within his remembrance, which were said to have grown from the sprouts of the first trees planted by the hermit. His well, too, was long pointed out at the southern border of this valley and long after it was filled up with moss and weeds the pure water still bubbled up from its fountains. His grave was also designated, though with less certainty, in the orchard, about two rods east from the foot of the hill and north of the well. The "flat stone which it is said marked his grave," finally became invisible, either from removal or from being buried under the surface.

One Alexander,[1] who was drowned in the river, was buried, it is said, by the side of Mr. Blackstone. Is it not probable that his wife was also buried at the same place?

The spot on which he lived once again returned to its original state of nature. Sixty years ago a heavy growth of timber trees was cut from this hill and a few years later its surface was thickly covered with young and thrifty wood. Oaks of a hundred years had grown on the garden of Blackstone.

Some few years since an interesting paper[2] on Blackstone was read in Boston, and the results of recent investigation, as then shown, have thrown considerable new light upon the possible parentage and birthplace of our first inhabitant, and the conjectures seem both reasonable and probable. This pamphlet, and others from which facts have been given, never met the eyes of the author of this work, and those of the editor only, as it were, by chance in a foreign land thousands of miles distant from the scenes of Blackstone's homes in the Old Bay State. This accounts for the somewhat irregular appearance of these facts in this chapter, which was previously nearly completed by the author himself, and for the apparent discrepancies they cause with some of his statements.

It was formerly conjectured that there might be relationship between our Blackstone and the celebrated law commentator Sir William Blackstone; but the descendants of both have so far been unable to find any connecting link. According to Mr. Amory, until within recent years "the only promising clew to the parentage and birthplace of our first inhabitant (Boston) is a power, in 1653, of Sarah Blackstone (Suffolk Deeds), to collect money advanced, in which she is described as of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and which mentions the name of Stevenson, that of the first husband of Blackstone's wife." Later investigations have opened other clews to a possible solution of this question, and whether true or not they are possessed of much interest.

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[1] Supposed to be the Thomas Alexander, mentioned by Savage in *Gen. Dict.*, vol. I, p. 26, as son of Nathaniel. How he came here, and why, is unknown.

[2] "William Blackstone," read before the Bostonian Society, November 9, 1880, by Thomas Coffin Amory and published in 1886. He was the author of the pamphlet before quoted.

Mr. Amory, on good authority, makes our William Blackstone "a near kinsman of John Blakiston, the friend of Cromwell, and one of the regicides who died just before the Restoration. Some of the regicides' descendants settled in Maryland, and a branch is believed to be there now." Mr. Amory further says: "It seems reasonable to assume that all of the name descend from the well-known stem in the palatinate of Durham, the earliest of whom mentioned — Hugh — was proprietor of Blakiston, about six miles from the episcopal city, as early as 1341." "Few families of private gentry," says Surtees in his History of Durham, "have spread more widely or flourished fairer than Blackstone; but all its branches have perished, like the original stock. One family alone remains which can trace its blood, without hereditary possessions" — an uncertain kinship being claimed by a few others in the south of England.

The house of Blakiston was one of great wealth and honors, and, according to the history above referred to, reached the height of its prosperity during the middle of the sixteenth century, under one John — probably the one mentioned elsewhere as of the time of Queen Elizabeth. He had fifteen children, for all of whom he was able to make liberal provision. His eldest son was Sir William, born in 1553, and married to Alice Claxton in 1581. They had nine children, and all of the six sons were living in 1624. William was the name of the fifth son, and he, it is supposed, is the same who subsequently became our first settler. Through this Sir William and the son who inherited the title, "the last sweepings of the great Blackiston estates" seem to have been conveyed away, both father and son being somewhat wild and reckless in character and life. Alice Claxton, however, brought to her husband a fine estate, and upon it, in "the house at Wynyard" they seem to have lived most of the time after their marriage, and here, probably, their children were born. This estate is described as being very beautiful, and the house as "one of the most convenient and handsome in the district."

To again quote Mr. Amory: "Knights and beneficed clergymen abounded in the family and if, as suggested, our William was the son of Alice Claxton, his declining, in the impoverished condition of the family, after having obtained a collegiate education, to conform to the ecclesiastical requisitions and be beneficed himself, may explain the tradition in the Connecticut line that their first American ancestor left home from some misunderstanding with his parents."

The name of Blackstone has been variously spelled: Blakiston, Blakeston, and Blackstone being the most common; but he himself adopted Blaxton, as found both by his signatures on receiving his degrees at Emmanuel College — called the Puritan College because many of our eminent divines graduated there — and also upon his deed to David Whipple. This mode of spelling makes the name identical with that of his supposed mother, Claxton, with the exception of the initial letter, and certainly forges another link in the chain of evidence relating to his parentage.

His taste and skill in horticulture, woodcraft, and all accomplishments of a similar nature, tend, as is said, to confirm the conjecture that he was bronght up on a large manorial estate, and the chase and field sports in which as an English country gentleman's son he must undoubtedly have participated "prepared his constitution to cope with the exposures and privations of forest-life, and gave him the knowledge and experience required to obtain his food and to take pleasure in its pursuit."

There were many fine old manor houses in the Blakiston family. That of Blakiston proper, standing in an attractive situation, was taken down during the last century; but the most celebrated of all was Gibside, which remained in the name until the death of the last baron, Sir Francis Blakiston, in 1713. It lies between Newcastle-on-Tyne and Ravensworth Castle, on the Derwent, and historians speak "of the beautiful and magnificent scenery of the place," rendered more beautiful from the bleak country which surrounds it. The park is four miles in circumference, and the drive to the "stately banqueting house, seated on a noble elevation," is described as winding "through the bosom of a thick forest, sometimes on the brink of a deep ravine, and at intervals descending on the easy inclination of the hill, but still embowered with venerable oaks." The gardens, the pasturage, the cultivated lands and the mansion house itself are all in keeping with the magnificence of the great park, and together form an estate and a home such as only a family of wealth, cultivation, and distinction would possess and occupy. This place, there are many reasons to believe, belonged to near kinsmen of our Blackstone, and probably he was here a frequent and welcome visitor.

Such probably was the home, such the friends he left. The character he ever sustained proves him to have belonged, we think, without question, to a family of education and great culture, and these recent developments only add to the interest and the mystery still surrounding the question of the real underlying cause of his self-imposed exile. Powerful indeed must have been the influence and urgent indeed the conscientious necessity which compelled him to leave some of the fairest of earth's scenes and intercourse with cultured friends for the deep solitudes of the American wilderness.

More than thirty years ago, on the one hundred and eightieth anniversary of his death, an effort was made to arouse public interest in the raising of funds to erect a suitable monument to the memory of Mr. Blackstone. A few weeks later, on July 4, 1855, the anniversary of his marriage, quite a number of people gathered at his grave, the spot being then "designated by two small bowlders of semi-crystallized quartz rock." An association was ormed called the "Blackstone Monument Association"; officers were elected and a constitution adopted. Any persons, without regard to "age, sex, sect, or color," by presenting their names and subscribing ten cents, were thereby made members of the association. Appropriate exercises were held; an oration was delivered by a Mr. S. C. Newman — a lineal descendant of the

first minister of Rehoboth — and this was followed by the singing of an ode, and impromptu speeches.

Considerable enthusiasm was manifested, and nearly the entire assembly responded to the call for signatures and dimes. An aged man very aptly suggested that the orator be the first to record his name, and his dime was seized by a reverend gentleman present, who held it aloft exclaiming, — "In this little coin behold in glistening embryo the future monument — a granite volume with illustrations, which shall be read by distant coming generations of men with respect and admiration of their forefathers who met here this day to perpetuate the character and memory of Blackstone."

The monument of this charming vision was but a shadowy mirage, — the reflection not of a distant reality, but of a passing illusion, — and the grave of the sage of Study Hill was still neglected and its site almost unknown for many years. We who live in the rush and hurry of this nineteenth century seem to think only of the future, and we almost forget the past; but we should stop long enough now and again to think on the men who gave us the blessings of our land of freedom and prosperity, and, keeping green within our hearts the principles they established, we should burn to perpetuate their memories by rescuing their humble resting-places from oblivion ere it be forever too late.

At last, however, a portion of the vision becomes real, but in place of the quiet, beautiful surroundings the imagination prophetically portrayed, the picture is framed by the noisy, homely environments of a bustling town. The peaceful valley is there no longer, the river flows no more through those fertile pastures. Study Hill has been entirely taken away, and in its place stands a large cotton mill.

While this work of demolition was going on, the bones of Mr. Blackstone were disinterred in the presence of Mr. Lorenzo Blackstone, of Norwich, Conn., and President Gammell, of the Rhode Island Historical Society. These were placed in an appropriate box, and again buried under the building, in which there will be a monument to his name.

How strange is what we term the "irony of fate"! The would-be recluse, disturbed in life, is disturbed also in death. Intruders coveted his pleasant domains while he occupied them, and to-day the demon of manufacture seizes upon them, even removing the soil in which his body was placed, denying him his own grave. Instead of the waving of branches above his head and the gentle sighing of soft winds, is the tread of hurrying feet and the noise of shouting multitudes. The "sculptured marble" rears itself, not amid the giant trees of the forest, close by his peacefully flowing river, but near the giant engine, by whose mighty power the hum of whirring spindles sounds unceasingly. The spirit of the gentle sage could scarcely reconcile itself to such a change, and must have passed saddened away from its accustomed haunts forever.

But this picture has its brighter side, for the former possessor of these lands is not forgotten. Much honor is due to the gentlemen of the Lonsdale Company, who, having probably no interest beyond their own present practical one in this spot, so filled to the historian with associations of the past, have yet generously given place to the lettered stone, which, over its very site, shall mark the lone grave and perpetuate the name and memory of William Blackstone.[1]

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[1] The above suggested plans have been carried out with some modifications. When the grave was discovered "fragments of a coffin and hammered nails such as were made in those days, and pieces of bones, were found," and "the sides of the grave were also plainly visible." It was a "solitary grave," no indications of any other being visible, and it would seem that Blackstone must have buried his wife elsewhere. That the grave found was that of Blackstone there can be no reasonable doubt, since now long ancient tradition has always pointed to that vicinity as his burial place. "The monument stands a very few yards from the grave and in line with it. The precise spot is covered by the Lonsdale Co.'s Ann and Hope Mill. The monument was erected by some of the descendants of Mr. Blackstone, and the inscription was written by a member of the Lonsdale Co." It is of granite, some ten or twelve feet high — the base five or six feet square, and the shaft a foot or more smaller, tapering slightly. It is within the enclosed grounds of the mill, surrounded by the vivid green of a beautiful lawn, the only object on it. Upon the southerly or front side, beneath a cross cut into the stone, is the following inscription: "THE GRAVE OF THE REVEREND WILLIAM BLACKSTONE, FOUNDER OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON AND THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER IN RHODE ISLAND;" on the east side: "A STUDENT OF EMMANUEL COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE. HE TOOK HOLY ORDERS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, IN WHOSE COMMUNION HE LIVED AND DIED;" on the west side: "COMING FROM BOSTON TO THIS SPOT IN 1635, HE DIED MAY 26, 1675, AGED OVER 80 YEARS, AND WAS HERE BURIED:" on the north side: "ERECTED BY THE LINEAL DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM BLACKSTONE, A.D. 1889."

CHAPTER III.

INCORPORATION. — PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN. — FIRST SETTLEMENTS, ETC.

THIRTY-THREE years after the purchase of territory — as described — from Wamsutta, by Captain Willett, and twenty-eight years after its transfer by him to the Colony of New Plymouth and their conveyance of the same to the proprietors, the number of settlers within its limits had so largely increased as to render it proper and desirable that steps should be taken to carry out the original intention, which was the formation of an independent township.

The following petition to the Council and Representatives of the Province of Massachusetts Bay was therefore presented by the inhabitants of the North Purchase: —

To his Excellency, Sir Wm. Phipps Knight, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of their Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, with the Honorable Council and Representatives thereof now assembled in General Court at Boston, Oct. 17, 1694.

The Petn. of the Subscribers in behalf of themselves and the rest of the proprietors of the lands herein mentioned and expressed,

Humbly Sheweth,

That whereas our ancestors and some of ourselves have formerly purchased a certain tract of land commonly known by the Name of the North Purchase, containing in length about ten miles from Pawtucket River to Taunton bounds, and about eight miles from the Massachusetts line between the two late Colonies, to Rehoboth bounds, being in our apprehension land sufficient for a township;[1] and we being now already above thirty families on the place besides other proprietors that at present live elsewhere, Doe humbly pray this Honble. Assembly to make us a township endued with such privileges as other towns are: for these reasons following, viz:

First and principally for the honor of God, and our chiefest good, in that our distance is far to go on the Lord's days — some of us ten or eleven miles to Rehoboth to the public worship of God, which in the winter season is very inconvenient for us to go, and especially for our children — and also the great burthen we sustain in going so far to traine — attend Town Meetings, and to work in their highways, and our own in the mean time neglected.

2ly. In that if we were a township we should quickly (we hope) procure an able Orthodox Minister to teach us, and also a schoolmaster to instruct our children, which would incite more able and desirable inhabitants to come and settle among us, we having lands and other commodities for their encouragement.

3dly. In that we being as Frontiers in danger of the enemy between Rehoboth and other places, should if we were a township be in a better posture of defence when we are *compleated* with officers amongst ourselves,

4thly. We might further add the benefit might redound to their Majesty's service, there being great store of ship timber, and Cooper's stuff wh. might with more facility be conveyed to the water side, were our habitations settled nearer.

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[1] We fully agree with the petition that the tract of land then comprising the large towns of Attleborough and Cumberland was reasonably sufficient for a township.

All which is humbly offered to Your Excellency and Honors for acceptance by
Your humble Supplyants
John Woodcock
Daniel Sheppison
John Callender for
and in the name and
behalf of the rest of the
Proprietors of the said lands.

Oct. 17, 1694
That the above
Petition is granted
provided it do not
prejudice any former
grant. The name to
be Attleborough.
Die predict. Voted to be
drawn into an Act.
Past in the affirmative by the house of Representatives.
Nehimiah Quinet=
Speaker.

Oct. 19th 1694
H. of R. Past and sent up.

The following is the Act of Incorporation, Dated Oct. 19, 1694.

AN ACT for granting a township within the County of Bristol to be called Attleborough.

Whereas there is a certain tract of land commonly known by the name of North Purchase, lying within the County of Bristol, containing in length about ten miles from Pawtucket River to the bounds of Taunton,[1] and extending about eight miles in breadth from the line or boundary betwixt the two late Colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth, to the bounds of the town of Rehoboth; being a convenient tract for a township, and more than thirty families already settled thereupon; For the better encouragement and settlement of said Plantation:

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That henceforth the said tract of land as above described, and bounded by the townships of Taunton and Rehoboth, (no ways to intrench upon either of their rights) be and shall be a township, and called by the name of Attleborough; and shall have and enjoy all such immunities, privileges, and powers, as generally, other townships within this Province have and do enjoy.

Provided, That it be not in prejudice of any former grant.

Provided also, That the Inhabitants of the said place do continue under the power and direction of the Selectmen, Assessors, and Constables of Rehoboth (whereunto they were formerly annexed) as well referring to any assessments and arrears thereof, as all other things proper to the duty of Selectmen, Assessors and Constables, respectively; until they are supplied with such officers among themselves, according to the directions in the law in that case made and provided.

The derivation of the name given to this new township is "At-le-burgh," meaning at the borough, fort, or castle, "Atleburgh." It was named after Attleborough, Norfolk County, England, which was formerly a city and market town, and a celebrated place in English history. That place was called "The Borough," from its being the principal place in the vicinity of Bungay Castle, the seat of the Mortimers — Earls of March. Our Bungay River — sometimes pronounced Bun*gay*, accent on the second syllable — was doubtless named after the castle of the Earls of March.[2]

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[1] Taunton North Purchase.

[2] See *Globe Encyclopædia*, "Bungay," p. 531. The above was the opinion formed by the author.— EDITOR.

Thomas Daggett and John Sutton and his wife and four children were from that town. Sutton came to Hingham, Mass., and thence to Rehoboth with his family, as early as the 4th mo. 1644, and it is believed that our town was named by them.

The boundaries described in the preceding act included the present towns of Attleborough and Cumberland,[1] R. I., embracing a very extensive tract of land. It was inhabited in some localities by a few Indians. There was a plantation of them in the North Purchase six or eight miles north of Mr. Blackstone's at Sinnechitaconet, but it soon dwindled away. The number of white inhabitants at this time could not much exceed a hundred and eighty. They were mostly settled in the southerly and westerly parts of the town. These families were scattered over a considerable space; many had been here from an early period. Of the early settlements more will be said hereafter.

The country was then mostly covered with forests, interspersed, however, with a good supply of natural meadow, which was considered the most valuable kind of land.

The inhabitants increased rapidly, and soon penetrated into various parts of the town.

EARLY PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN AFTER ITS INCORPORATION.

A few extracts from the early records of the town, illustrating the character of the times, will be interesting to the present generation.

The first town meeting on record appears to have been held May 11, 1696, two years after the incorporation. There must, however, have been a previous meeting, and a choice of officers — of which no record is preserved. At this meeting the town chose Mr. John Woodcock and Mr. John Rogers,[2] late of Bristol, as agents "to manage our concerns in matters relating to that part of our township commonly called the Mile and Half, according to our petition and other copies which are in the hands of Mr. Henry Derens Clerk to the House of Representatives, and did further appoint and impower Mr. John Woodcock to agree with and impower said Mr. Rogers and take care to help him to such papers as may most concern our business, for the promoting of matters relating to our township."

At the same meeting three assessors were chosen for the ensuing year; namely, Israil Woodcock, Thomas Tingley, and Samuel Titus.

The next town meeting was held November 23d, 1696, at which the town authorized the selectmen to make a rate for paying the town's debts, which amounted to £5, 15s 1d. At the same time several individuals engaged to pay certain sums "by way of free gift towards the building of a Meeting House," and desired their names and sums might be entered accordingly.

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[1] See *Bradford for Bristol.* [Attleborough before the division.]

[2] See *Order of Royal Coms.*, p. 156.

	£. s.		£. s.
Mr. John Woodcock	1. 00	Thomas Woodcock	0. 10
John Lane[1]	1. 00	George Robinson	1. 00
Israil Woodcock	0. 10	David Freeman	1. 00

March 22, 1696–97. The town, "taking into consideration who are by law allowed to vote in town meetings, and finding so few allowed to vote," ordered that "all the inhabitants and town Dwellers" should have a right to vote in said meetings. At this time town officers were chosen for the year ensuing; namely, "Mr. John Woodcock, Anthony Sprague, Daniel Jenks, Jonathan Fuller, Thomas Tingley, Selectmen; Anthony Sprague, town Clerk; Israil Woodcock, Constable; Nicholas Ide and Joseph Cowel, Surveyors; Henry Sweet, Tithingman; Thomas Tingley and Samuel Titus, Fence-viewers; John Woodcock, Anthony Sprague and Daniel Jenks, Assessors; John Lane, Grand juryman; Benjamin Force for the Jury of trials in April next at the Quarter Sessions at Bristol."

November 23, 1696, the town debt is recorded, the amount being £5, s.18, d.1.

May 10, 1697. At a town meeting for the choice of an "Assembly man for the Great and General Court," the inhabitants voted not to send a man "by reason the town was excused by law."

July 12, 1697. The town voted to have a Pound made according to law upon a piece of undivided land between the lands of Daniel Shepperson and James Jillson near the "Bay Road."

The inhabitants were often disturbed by Indians and others hunting and strolling about the town and insulting the inhabitants. In relation to these disturbances the town passed the following orders: —

Jan'y 31st, 1697 or 8. At a town meeting legally warned for the making of "some town orders or by-laws touching persons disorderly coming into town who have no rights or lands in the same but are strangers and foreigners," the town passed the orders as follows: —

The inhabitants then met did make two town orders, or by laws, for said town which are as followeth. — it is therefore ordered and agreed upon by the inhabitants of Attleborough, and voted in said meeting that no person that is a stranger shall be received as an inhabitant without the Consent or approbation of said town or sufficient security given to the Town by him or them that shall take in or harbor any person contrary to this order; — moreover the Selectmen are appointed to take due care and sufficient security in the behalf of the town of and for all such persons as shall receive in or harbor any stranger or foriner; or to give order and warning to such stranger or foriner to depart the town according as the law directs, and that with all convenient speed after knowledge or notice given of the same. So observing from time to time that the Town be not charged with unnecessary charges.

The second order or by-Law was touching Indian forinners and strangers that have been complained of for uncivill carriages and behaviour towards some of the inhabitants of this

[1] John Lane, an early settler. Several of that name afterwards. (Ebenezer.) From him, John, descended Judge Lane, of Ohio, a distinguished lawyer, and judge of the Supreme Court of that State.

town: for the prevention of which the inhabitants being desired to give their advice did meet and agree and by Joint consent have voted and passed this act, that no forrin or Indian stranger should be allowed to come into town being armed under hunting pretense nor suffered in the same to abide in Drinkings and Shotings [shootings] at unseasonable times of night and threatinings to severall persons which is contrary to the laws of this province and disturbing to severall of this town; neither is any person or persons whatsoever within this town allowed to take in or harbour Indian or Indians armed other than such as hath been allowed or shall be allowed without the unanimous consent of the inhabitants at any time hereafter, but every person or persons transgressing aganst this order or by law shall pay a fine of five shillings each day for the use of the poor of this town for every such offense.

March 4th, 1699 or 1700, in town meeting Daniel Shepperson gave a piece of ground to set a pound on "at a place commonly known and called Red Rock Hill by the rhoad-side by a pine tree, which pound is to be built 30 feet square and finished by the last of June 1700." At the same time the house of Daniel Shepperson was appointed "to be the certain known place for Town meetings," he giving "free liberty and comfort" to the people, until some other place should be provided.

March 13, 1700. Voted not to send a representative, for the same reason that was assigned at the first meeting.

March 25, 1701. In town meeting voted and appointed a "Training place to be on the South side of David Freeman's house, between the two ways, viz. the Bay road and the road that leadeth to Nicholas Ide's house." At the same time the town "did by major vote appoint the last Tuesday in March at 9 o'clock A.M. to be their Election Day annually for choosing town officers according to law, without any further warning, so to continue till further order." This year no Assembly man was sent.

Feb. 9th, 1702–3. It was voted that Ensign Nicholas Ide and Anthony Sprague with the selectmen be a committee to agree in behalf of our town concerning the lines and bounds between Attleborough, Dorchester, and Wrentham. It was also voted that the selectmen should make a town rate for the payment of town debts, and that a quarter part of said rate be levied upon the polls, and the rest upon the estates; and that said rate "shall be paid in Indian corn at 2s. 6d. per bushel, or rye at 3s. 6d. per bushel, or oats at 1s. 6d. per bushel, or in money."

March 14th, 1703. Voted not to send a representative by reason they were so few in number and excused by law.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The first settlement within the bounds of the present (1886) town of Attleborough was in the neighborhood of the Baptist meetinghouse, where Hatch's old tavern still stands. It was commenced by Mr. John Woodcock, his sons and their families, soon after the first division in 1669. Here he built a public house on the "Bay Road," and fortified it as a garrison, and laid out lands to the amount of about three hundred acres, which afterwards

made an excellent farm. At this time and subsequently he took up in several parts of the town about six hundred acres, part on his own shares, and the rest on rights which he purchased of Roger Amidown, James Redeway, Andrew Willett, etc. A part of this six hundred acres was on Bungay River, where Bishop's shop once stood, and this he conveyed to his son Jonathan, with the "saw-mill thereon standing."

Woodcock's house was occupied for a garrison. It was licensed in 1670, according to the following record:—

"July 5th, 1670. John Woodcock is allowed by the Court to keep an Ordinary at the ten mile river (so called) which is in the way from Rehoboth to the Bay; and likewise enjoined to keep good order, that no unruliness or ribaldry be permitted there." — *Old Col. Rec.*

His name first appears in the Rehoboth records "the 28th 4th mo. 1647," when he bought the lands of Ed. Patterson. "The town gave to John Woodcock the lot before granted to Edward Pateson."[1] He also had a grant of land in May, 1662, for a small house near the church for "the Lord's day," and he was living in Rehoboth as early as July 28, 1662 — probably for some time previous — though the precise date of his settling there cannot be ascertained. He came there from Roxbury, where he owned real estate, but where he had previously lived is not known. He was admitted a freeman of that town May 14, 1673.

Woodcock was a man of some consideration in those days, his name frequently appearing in town offices and on committees. June 2, 1691, he was chosen "Deputy to the General Court" from Rehoboth, and at several other times. He was shrewd, hardy, fearless and adventurous — a character just suited to the times in which he lived, and the circumstances in which he was placed.

He held Indian rights in very low estimation. On one occasion he took the liberty of *paying himself* a debt due to him from a neighboring Indian, without the consent of the debtor or the intervention of judge, jury, or sheriff, — for which achievement he received the following sentence from the Court, — an example of the rigid justice of the Puritans:—

"1654 John Woodcock of Rehoboth, for going into an Indian house and taking away an Indian child and some goods in lieu of a debt the Indian owed him, was sentenced to set in the stocks at Rehoboth an hour on a Training day, and to pay a fine of forty shillings." — *Old Col. Rec., Court Orders, Book 3d.*

Woodcock had two wives: Sarah, who died in May, 1676 ("Sarah[2] wife of John Woodcock, buried 10th May 1676"), and a second one, Joanna, who survived him. He had a large family of children, some, if not all, of whose names I have ascertained, though no record of them is preserved on the

[1] See *Reh. His.*, p. 39. [2] See *Reh. Rec.*

books. John, who married Sarah Smith, Feb. 26th, 1673; Israil; Nathaniel, who was killed by the Indians; Jonathan; Thomas; and at least three daughters: one married to Thomas Esterbrook, one, Mary, 28th Nov. 1676, to Samuel Guild,[1] and another, Deborah, to Benj'n Onion,[2] of Dedham or Wrentham, May 24th, 1683. There were also others of this name, daughters of one William Woodcock,[3] viz. Alice, married 9th of April 1689, to Baruck Bucklin; Anne, married to Thomas Fuller; Sarah, married to Alexander Bolkcom; and Miriam[4] (or sometimes Mary), who was single July 3, 1718. She was said to have married Jonathan Freeman July 1, 1689. (Doubtless he had died.)

John Woodcock, Sen., died October 20, 1701, having arrived at a very advanced age in spite of the many attempts which had been made by the Indians to destroy him. It is said that after his death the scars of seven bullet holes were counted on his body. He was an inveterate and implacable enemy to the Indians — the cause of which will hereafter appear in the notice of some events in Philip's war. In encounters with them, on several occasions, he ran imminent risks of his life. He was foremost in all enterprises the object of which was the destruction of the Indians. He was a very useful man as a pioneer in the dangers and hardships of a new settlement, being cunning in contrivance and bold and active in execution.

Woodcock's Garrison was a well-known place of rendezvous in the great Indian war, and was probably for some years the only house, excepting its immediate neighbors, on the "Bay Road," between Rehoboth and Dedham, though this was then the main road from Rhode Island, Bristol, and Rehoboth to Boston. The Bay road extended first from Rehoboth through what is now "the city," to West Attleborough, north to Woodcock's, thence over Ten Mile hill to Jacob Shepardson's in what is now Foxborough, thence through Dedham and Roxbury to Boston.

This "Garrison" was one in a chain of fortifications extending from Boston to Rhode Island. There was one in Boston, one in Dedham at Ames' corner, Woodcock's in this place, one at Rehoboth, situated in the centre of the "Great Plain," on the borders of which the first settlements were principally located, another at Newport on the Island, and perhaps others in the intermediate spaces. It was a famous place on this road — a convenient public house for travelers as well as a well-known station in Philip's war. It witnessed many a military force on its march to the defence of the colonists, and such often halted and encamped there on their route overnight, and sometimes longer while waiting for additional forces. Companies were sometimes ordered to rendezvous there to wait the arrival of other troops who were to accompany them, and then the solitary places of

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[1] See *Reh. Rec.* [2] Ibid. [3] His name appears on *Prop'rs Rec.*, vol. 2, p. 25. [4] See *2d B., R. N. P. Rec.*, p. 25.

the wilderness were enlivened by the tread of armed men and the sounds of martial music.

After the Indians had commenced the war by open hostilities, having killed several persons in the settlements near Mt. Hope, " The government of Massachusetts," says Mr. Baylies, " promptly resolved to send assistance to Plymouth," and on the 26th of June a company of infantry under command of Captain Henchman and a company of horse commanded by Captain Prentice marched for Mt. Hope; and notwithstanding certain signs of ill omen which they fancied they saw in the heavens, which had great influence over the popular mind in that superstitious age, " they continued their march, and reached the house of one Woodcock, (now in Attleborough) distant about 30 miles from Boston, before they halted. It was then morning, and they resolved to wait there the arrival of Capt. Mosely with his company of volunteers." Mr Baylies says that " Mosely was a man of an intrepid spirit, and an excellent soldier. He had been a buccaneer in the West Indies, and had resided at Jamaica. The sounds of war revived his enthusiasm for deeds of enterprise and danger."

In the course of the day he arrived at the rendezvous at Woodcock's, with a company of one hundred and ten men, volunteers, amongst whom were ten or twelve privateersmen with dogs. This must have been a stirring scene in the lonely situation at Woodcock's. On the second day they reached Swansey.

On the Narragansett Expedition which was appointed for the next December, the three colonies of Plymouth, Connecticut, and Massachusetts united in furnishing military forces to be under the command of Josias Winslow, of Plymouth, as general.

Here again Woodcock's was a place of rendezvous for the Massachusetts portion of the army. Her force consisted of six companies under the command of Captains Mosely, Gardiner, Davenport, Oliver, Johnson, and Major Appleton, who commanded this portion of the force, and who, on the " 9th Dec. 1676 marched with them from Dedham to Woodcock's, the well-known place of rendezvous, 30 miles from Boston, and there encamped for the night." His companies numbered four hundred and sixty-five foot, and one company of horse under command of Captain Prentice, so that the whole number must have been over five hundred. This was a large army for the infant colony of Massachusetts forty-six years only after the settlement at Boston. They marched over the " Oulde Bay Road." Here they rested, and then marched on to Seekonk, where they met the army of Plymouth Colony, under General Winslow, and where the two forces were united and moved on their way to the great Narragansett fight. These same forces must have rendezvoused at Woodcock's on their return.

While armies in their marches halted there and great men of the colonies in their travels stopped there, this house is often mentioned by historians.

The celebrated Judge Sewall relates in his "Diary" that on his return from Rehoboth he dined at Woodcock's with fellow travelers on boiled venison, which was probably just such a dinner as they chose in those days, and would not be unacceptable at the present time.

Madame Knight in her famous journey from Boston to New York lodged there overnight, and speaks of her fare. This was considered a perilous journey in olden times, and required eight days to accomplish.

Madame Knight traveled on horseback with a servant, business of importance requiring her presence in New York. A sketch of this adventurous journey would afford a better knowledge of the condition of the country and its inhabitants than any formal description.[1]

This "Oulde Bay Road" was the first main road laid out in this part of the country, and all travel would necessarily pass by this "Ordinary" in those early days, which might be called the dawn of the New England life and civilization. It is a delight to go back in imagination and view the landscape that surrounded the traveler, and the novel scenes of early colonial life. Mile after mile of almost trackless woods filled with bears, deer, and the other denizens of the forest, with here and there a gleaming lake or sparkling river glinting in the sunlight; the plodding wayfarer on foot with his heavy staff; the rider on horseback clad in the quaint costume of the time; and anon, a little opening in the wilderness with a single log house or a small cluster of rude buildings, where rest and refreshment could be obtained for man and beast. As one traveler dismounts, or another wearily shifts his heavy burden to the bench by the open door, we can see the dwellers of the hamlet slowly gathering one by one to hear the news from the outside world, a faint echo of whose events just reaches these secluded places; or the women collecting about the pedlar to hear the latest fashions of the towns described, and to barter for some of the contents of the pack by his side.

Woodcock had a large family, with a number of laborers and assistants; there must have been fully fourteen in the entire family. He had a smith on his place, barns, a garrison house of large size, sons' houses, etc., so that his place made quite an opening in the forest and furnished social relief to the lonely and weary journeyers. There was on such a route more travel than one would at first suppose, for emigrants were from time to time going from town to town and settlement to settlement, seeking eligible situations or locations, and messengers on business matters or the municipal and military affairs of the colonies must have frequently passed to and fro.

This stand, so long owned and occupied by Colonel Hatch, and still called by his name, is the oldest in the county of Bristol — a public house having

[1] Many farewells were said, and many prayers publicly offered for her safe return from such an untried and awful journey, over hill and dale, through field and flood. Such a tale brings a smile of incredulity to the face of the present lightning age, when this journey can be so easily made in seven hours, gliding over iron rails in a palace on wheels.

been kept on the spot, without intermission, from July 5, 1670, to about 1840 — during a period of *one hundred and seventy years.* It is situated on the Boston and Providence turnpike, now often termed "the old turnpike road." I have been at considerable pains to ascertain the names of the several owners in succession, and the times at which they purchased, some brief notices of which may be interesting to the reader.

It was established by John Woodcock, as already related, in 1670, the land having been laid out and cleared by him for the purpose. He occupied it about twenty-three years.

Feb. 17, 1693–94, John Woodcock, Sen., of Rehoboth (with Joanna[1] his wife), for £390 money in hand received, conveys to John Devotion,[2] of "Muddy River, formerly of Boston," a tract of land containing two hundred and ten acres, being "at a place commonly called ten mile river, by a highway called Wrentham lane," etc., "with the mansion or dwelling house, barn, and all other out-housing and buildings (the Smith's shop only excepted standing on the river);"[3] also about thirty acres lying on the northwest side of the country road formerly given to his son, John Woodcock, bounded by Ten Mile River, etc., with his son's dwelling house and barn on the same. "John Devotion took quiet possession of the same April 9th 1694, in presence of Nathaniel Brentnall, William Chaplin." In this conveyance to Devotion is the following curious item: "Also, all the said John Woodcock, his right to, and privilege in, a house and pasture at Wrentham for accommodation of his family and horses on Sabbath days and other public times, as occasion may be." As we have seen, he formerly had a house at Rehoboth for a similar purpose. From this and other records it appears that Woodcock and his family were very attentive to public worship.

Woodcock laid out the ancient burying-ground near his house. In the above-mentioned conveyance is the following reservation: "Except a small parcel of at least six rods square or the contents thereof, for a burying place, in which my wife and several of my children and neighbors are interred, with liberty for my children and neighbors to come upon and make use therof forever as occasion may be."

John Devotion occupied the premises more than seventeen years. He left no descendants here; and after selling his estate removed to Wethersfield, and afterwards to Suffield, Conn., where a brother, Ebenezer Devotion,[4] was settled. His wife's name was Hannah, probably Taylor.

July 10, 1711, John Devotion, for £400 money paid, conveys the said

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[1] Second wife, to whom he had been married some years.

[2] John Devotion was a graduate of Harvard College, and he had a son, John Devotion, who was a schoolmaster living in Swansea in 1716.

[3] A shop now stands on the same spot.

[4] Ebenezer Devotion was also a graduate of Harvard College. He taught school in Dorchester, and went to Suffield, Conn., in 1709, was ordained in 1710, and remained there till his death, which occurred in 1739.

farm containing two hundred acres, more or less, to John Daggett, of Chilmark, in Dukes County, Martha's Vineyard (the first of that name who settled in this town?), with twenty-five acres on "Nine Mile Run" (except two acres, the barn and orchard on it later — in 1833 — in possession of Penticost Blackinton). "Also, one whole share in the undivided lands in Attleborough."

April 16, 1722, John Daggett, for £550, sells the same to Alexander Maxcy, "being his homestead, containing one hundred and seventy acres in two parts on the Ten Mile River, &c. at a place called Mount Hope Hill."[1] The said Maxcy died in about a year after this purchase. At the division of his estate, in 1730, the establishment passed into the hands of his oldest son, Josiah Maxcy. After his death, in 1772, if not before, it came into the possession of his son, Levi Maxcy, who occupied it till about 1780, when he sold it to Colonel Israil Hatch.

Mr. Hatch was born in this town in 1754, and while he was a boy was "put out to work," at Deacon Stearns' who lived in what is now Plainville. On coming of age he commenced life for himself as a driver on a mail stage over the old post road between Boston and Providence. Later he owned a stage for himself, and carried passengers over the same road. He was engaged for a short time in the war of the Revolution, was in Sullivan's expedition to Rhode Island, in Captain Alex. Foster's Company, in Colonel Thomas Carpenter's Regiment. About 1780, as before seen, he purchased the old garrison house of Levi Maxcy, and continued keeping a public house there until his death, though he was also at different times proprietor of several hotels in Boston; one on State Street — Exchange Hotel — from which many daily stages started out; one where the Adams House now is, and another on Tremont Street, or perhaps Washington Street, where it is said he kept a hotel called the "White Horse." The following stanza on its bulletin board proclaimed the advantages of this hostelry to travelers: —

From Attleboro' sirs, I came,
Where once I did you entertain,
And now shall here, as there before,
Attend you at my open door,
Obey all orders with dispatch,
I 'm sirs,
Your servant,
Israel Hatch.

During his sojourn in Boston, on June 8th, 1789, he was appointed captain in the first regiment, in the first brigade and first division of the militia of the Commonwealth. September 26, 1789, he was appointed major in the same regiment. He received these appointments from the governor, as may be seen by the original certificates now in the possession of a descendant,

[1] So called to this day.

which contain the bold signature of "His Excellency John Hancock, Esq. Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." The certificate of his taking the oath is signed "Peter Green, Lt. Col. Comd'r." He resigned April 20, 1790.

Though he resided in Boston for a number of years, he continued to keep the tavern in the old garrison house, and about 1800 he returned to Attleborough to live.

He was one of the chief projectors of the Boston and Providence Turnpike, was one of the contractors and himself built quite a portion of it. March 24, 1801, a patent was issued to him for "a new and useful improvement in the mode of making and discharging chain and cleaver shot." This shot was applicable to "ships, batteries, and all modes of warfare." This patent, still in existence, is on real parchment, and bears the signature of Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, and that of Levi Lincoln, Attorney General and acting Secretary of State.

During the war of 1812 Colonel Hatch took great interest in the harbor defences. February 21, 1811, he was appointed Justice of the Peace, and the commission was "for seven years or during good behavior," signed by "Elbridge Gerry, Governor." He was the first postmaster appointed in the town and he received the first appointment in 1789. His second appointment as "Deputy Post Master" was issued February 21, 1805, by "Gid^{n}. Granger, Post Master General."

Colonel Hatch had in various ways, both as innkeeper and public man, intercourse with many of the great men of his time. Among the valuable papers he left is a letter, relating to some military affairs, from John Quincy Adams, and another regarding his patent franked by James Madison.

He married Lois Holmes of the same family as that known still in the Holmes neighborhood. They had six children: Israil, Sally, Lucy, Fanny, George, and Joseph. Lucy married John Stephen Fuller, a native of this town who kept the "Half Way House" on the turnpike, in Walpole, called "Polley's." It was a celebrated and popular tavern in the days of stage coaches from Boston to Providence, and everybody was anxious to dine there on the passage. Fuller was the landlord who created its reputation, which lasted till stage travel had ended.

Most of this family were remarkable for their longevity. Fanny, who became Mrs. Washington Pearce, lived to be ninety-three. Israel died December 18, 1875, aged eighty-four years, seven months, and twelve days; and his wife died ten days later, aged eighty-five years, ten months, and fifteen days; Sally died October 11, 1854, aged seventy-five; George in 1872, aged eighty; Joseph, who was a prominent physician in North Attleborough, died September 13, 1855, aged fifty-nine years, eleven months, the only one of the family who did not reach great age. Five of the six children survived

both father and mother, for Mrs. Hatch died January 23, 1831, when in her seventy-ninth year.

Colonel Hatch had a long career of usefulness in various public capacities. "In character he was extremely vigorous and enterprising, always seemed anxious to take hold of new and extensive projects, and to see them carried through. He was often engaged in large operations of various kinds, and was in his day a very influential man." During the days of his proprietorship the Hatch House dispensed its hospitality to many famous persons. Such illustrious men as Washington and Lafayette dined there; such as John Quincy Adams, Commodore Hull, Commodore Bainbridge, General Winfield Scott, President Monroe, and Daniel Webster.

The old garrison house was torn down in 1806, and a large and elegant building erected on the spot, fifty-eight by sixty feet, and three stories high. It thus appears that the first building erected on the place stood one hundred and thirty-six years. A great part of the timber was said to be perfectly sound, pierced, however, by many a bullet received in Philip's war. A relic of this house, it is said, was preserved in the Massachusetts Historical Society. It was the *original* building only that was taken down. An addition built at an early period was moved a little back, where it now stands, "carved o'er with many a long-forgotton name." Up to 1830 a small remnant, one room, of the old garrison might be seen adjoining the wood house. The addition, after its removal, was used as a storehouse for liquors, a place for their sale, and also a barroom where friendly "spirits" could meet and drink and chat leisurely together. This was finally arranged as a dwelling house, and was, until quite recently, occupied by members of the family. Its framework of oak timber, twelve to fourteen inches square, is apparently in excellent preservation, and doubtless still strong enough to defy the ravages of time for many years to come.

The new building had four rooms on the first floor, about twenty-four feet square. A wide hall ran the full length of the house in the three stories. The second floor contained five rooms and the third floor seven, while above was a large open attic. The wing contained three rooms — the kitchen and a barroom with dancing hall above. The sign is still in existence and in the possession of one of Colonel's Hatch's grandchildren.[1] It is about five feet by four, with a strong iron frame above the top by which to hang it. The outside border of the sign is painted a vivid green with a narrow inside bordering of red. The centre is painted white with a stately looking steamboat on it and a landscape in the background. At the top, in large letters, is painted "Steam Boat Hotel" — for that was the real name of the famous old tavern; "I Hatch," below, and "painted by Barron, Pawtucket." It has swung in many a breeze and buffeted with many a fierce storm without the ancient inn

[1] Mrs. W. H. Goodhue, who has also the interesting papers previously referred to. — EDITOR.

door, but it announced in all weathers the same abundant comfort and good cheer within. It ought to be placed in some public place — a proper room or building — and there carefully preserved as an interesting relic of those "good old times," now forever passed away.

Colonel Hatch died May 19, 1837, in the eighty-third year of his age. He kept the tavern until about a year before his death, and his son, Captain Israil Hatch, kept it until 1839 or 1840. Since then it has been used for dwellings. Its pristine glory has departed. It is at present quite dilapidated and fast falling to decay, and not a trace of the original old garrison remains. After the death of Colonel Hatch the author was appointed administrator of the estate. He collected, among other claims, the proceeds of Colonel Hatch's five shares in the turnpike — sold the outlots, and afterwards sold that part of the famous farm which was the main or largest part of it, to "Draper and Tifft" (Josiah Draper and John Tifft), and divided the spacious mansion among his heirs-at-law, three sons and two daughters. It was finally owned by Mr. H. F. Barrows, Mrs. E. I. Richards, and Mrs. W. H. Goodhue, the latter the only descendant who had a share in it for a number of years.

Thus its career as a public house ended; thus were closed up the records of this old historic tavern, one hundred and seventy years after Woodcock first opened its doors as an "ordinary"; thus this venerable institution which had watched the passing of six generations of men on the stage of life was laid to rest in its grave. What changes it had witnessed! First it was in the domain of Massasoit, Pockanocket; then a part of the Old Colony; next in the Massachusetts Bay Colony; then in the Province of Massachusetts Bay; and last in the free, independent State of Massachusetts, under its own constitution in the United States. Beneath that shelter may its grave remain undisturbed forever.[1]

Several families settled near Mr. Blackstone's seat previous to the war. John Fitch was one of these settlers. His grave is mentioned in the laying out of the lands adjoining Blackstone's, and some others had lands near him,

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[1] On the morning of January 20th, 1893, a fire partially destroyed this building. A paragraph in an article written at the time shows to what "base uses" the noble old structure had been subjected. "For the last quarter of a century the house has been falling into disuse and decay and has been chiefly noted for the drunken brawls which have taken place in it. The great dining hall has been a nesting place for birds and tramps, and the old southeast room, in which some of the world's great men had peacefully slept, was used as a cobbler shop. In this room the fire caught, and the entire building is now but little more than a shell. The heavy timbers in the walls resisted the fire, but the roof has fallen in, and the old barn-like structure which has attracted the attention of the curious for the last decade, and been an unsightly place in the town, will probably be pulled down in the spring." The truly unsightly ruin was left for several months, but at length what was left was torn down. It is sad to record this the "untimely end" of the "Old Hatch House," and to anticipate the speedy sweeping away of all visible traces of a place so famous in our early history. The adjacent building on the south — the modernized "addition" to the old garrison house — is all that now remains of this "ancient landmark," and when new buildings rise on the spot it will be difficult to recall with any degree of satisfaction what once was here in "ye good old times."

and in one case a house is named. This is probably the one mentioned in the following record — that of the laying out of highways, which it would seem were among the earliest laid out within the limits of the town: —

Alexander Balkcom, John Stevens, Eben. Tyler, Samuel Tyler, John Daggett, John Savage, Avery ? Savage, Jury to lay out roads, Oct. 3d and 4th 1684.

Laid out the Country road towards Mendon and Dedham, viz. the R. to Ded. from the gate at the N. W. end of the town, through the lane and 2d division and great Plaine in the ancient road, and along that road until it come to the heap of stones upon the ten Mile hill, to the Massachusetts line; wh. way we have laid out 4 R. wide except it be between John Woodcock's land where it is laid out 40 feet or upwards. Likewise the s'd Jury laid out a country highway to Medfield from the aforesaid Country highway to Dedham, viz. between John Woodcock's land 40 feet wide to the line aforesaid. Likewise a way leading to Abbots Run where the way comes that comes from Prov. that leads to Dedham, and along in that road westerly until it comes to John Stephenson's lot; and through his lot and a part of John Blackstone's land along until it comes to Isaac Allen's *house*, and by his fence straight betwixt two hills to meet with s'd road. Moreover, s'd Jury laid out a road from Pawtucket river 40 ft. wide by the river in John Blackstone's land to meet the way that leads to Mendon.

From *Proprietors Records of Rehoboth*
Wooster Carpenter, Clerk.

Another early settlement was at the Falls (so called), later Falls Factories, now Attleborough Falls. The natural advantages of a fine fall of water attracted the settlers to this spot. The banks of rivers were generally selected by the first occupants on account of the "natural meadows" which they afforded, and which were highly valued at a time when the face of the country was largely covered with forests.

The first person who laid out lands at the latter place, as near as can be ascertained from the records, was John Daggett, of Rehoboth, who, in October, 1677, sold fifty acres of them to his brother, Thomas Daggett, of Martha's Vineyard. Edward Hall [1] also at an early period owned fifty acres here, which he gave by will to his son John, and he sold it to John Stevenson [2] and Samuel Penfield; the latter sold it in 1686 to Thomas Daggett, of Edgartown, and Joseph and Nathaniel Daggett, of Rehoboth, these last two being sons of John Daggett the first, of that town, and first owner of lands in this place.[3] This was the land immediately around the Falls, including the privi-

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[1] Then of Rehoboth, previously of Taunton. Admitted a freeman of Massachusetts May 2d, 1638. One John Hall was admitted May 14th, 1634, and another May 6th, 1635. Edward had seven children — John, born before his father came to Rehoboth, Samuel, Jeremiah, Thomas, Preserved, Andrew, Benjamin, from 1656 to 1668.

[2] Was this John Stevenson son-in-law of William Blackstone?

[3] This was John the 2d, son of John the 1st, of Watertown and Martha's Vineyard, and he was born in England about 1625 or 1626. He appears to have gone to Rehoboth (with his father on his removal from Watertown about 1644), shortly subsequent to the settlement of that place. He was one of the original shareholders in the North Purchase lands, and one of the early settlers of Rehoboth. In 1651 he was married in Rehoboth to Anne Sutton, and they had five children. He appears not to have lived up on all occasions to the rigid requirements of his times, but sometimes indulged in what may be termed "freedom of speech," as may be seen by the following record: "June 1, 1663. John Doged of Rehoboth being by Capt. Willett convicted of 2 lyes, is fined 20 shillings." [See Doggett-Daggett History.] Whether this was a deliberate or unpremeditated act must be left to conjecture,

lege. The first mill built there was a "Corn Mill," owned or occupied by the above-named Joseph Daggett, at what time is not known. This was doubtless the first mill in town. March 30, 1703, the town voted that Joseph Daggett, of Rehoboth, have the privilege "that the stream at the Ten Mile River Falls shall go free of all sorts of taxes until a Corn mill has the constant custom of three score families; and if a saw mill be built, that to bear his equal share in public charges in said town."

Thomas Butler [1] also laid out lands near the mill.

The southeast corner of the town was early inhabited by people from Rehoboth. The borders of the Bay road, which passed through the neighborhood of Newell's and "the city," were occupied by some of the first settlers. This was the main route from Bristol to Boston, and was the first road in the town. It has been said that this road was not town built, but was constructed by outsiders, simply passing through the town's territory, and that the first highway laid out by those having an interest in the territory itself was the one mentioned in the record above quoted — the Mendon road.

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as the records furnish no clew to attending circumstances. As he subsequently held several town offices and was a man of some position in Rehoboth, — a place where the standard of respectability was as high as in any other settlement, — he is entitled to the "benefit of the doubt." During King Philip's war, when some advance of money was made, he contributed a considerable sum, the equivalent of perhaps four or five hundred dollars at the present time. He died in 1707.

[1] There were three of the name of Butler in town.

CHAPTER IV.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROPRIETORS. — INDIAN WAR. — PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PROPRIETORS.

THE proprietors of the Rehoboth North Purchase soon became a distinct body from the town, and kept separate books. Before proceeding to other parts of the history of this town, it may be proper to detail some of the transactions of the proprietors which will throw light on our early history and give a view of the difficulties which they had to encounter in the settlement.

The "Proprietors' Books" commence in 1672. Previous to this their proceedings were recorded in the Rehoboth town books. A certain company — consisting of inhabitants of Rehoboth — purchased, as already appears, a certain tract of land of the Indians, through their agent, and the title was confirmed by the government,[1] and the tract was called the Rehoboth North Purchase. There were eighty-two purchasers or shareholders, seventy-six of whom had whole shares and six half-shares, making seventy-nine whole shares.[2] What consideration was paid for the purchase does not appear, but some idea of the amount may be suggested by that paid to Philip for "six miles square or the quantity thereof," the territory now Wrentham. Captain Willett negotiated for that tract, and Philip received for it the sum of £24. s.10.

People from Wannamoisett (Swansea) and some residents of other places soon purchased shares in the association; some removed in the course of a few years, and sold their rights to others, and thus the proprietors became a distinct body from the town of Rehoboth and conducted their business

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[1] No purchase of Indian lands was valid without the grant or confirmation of the government. See *Old Colony Statutes.*

[2] An error is apparent in this list of 1672, for 80½ instead of 79 shares are represented. There were 82 purchasers, and of these 76 were interested in whole shares, but they held between them 77½ shares, as may be seen by examination, which with the 6 half-shares additional makes a total of 80½. The only explanation seems to be that in reckoning up the number of shares the three extra ones held by the men owning two full shares each were allowed to offset the three persons holding one share together. An entire share was thus lost in the count, and the extra half-share ascribed to John Woodcock was overlooked. This is not of vital importance, and few would take the trouble to examine the list, but as some curious person might do so, the apparent error is noticed. It is possible the author might have made some mistake in figures in copying the list, but he was usually so correct in such matters that we incline to the belief that the fault lay with the reckoning of the proprietors themselves. — EDITOR.

under a separate organization. They called their meetings by warrant from a justice of the peace, and elected their own officers, moderators, recording clerks, standing committees, and surveyors for laying out lands, and passed by-laws for the regulation of their proceedings. The course of proceeding was at a regular meeting of the proprietors called for the purpose to vote a dividend of so many acres to a share. The proprietor would then, after fixing upon his location, call upon the surveyor and committee to assign him the amount of his dividend, and make return of it in writing to the clerk, who would record it on the proprietors' books, and this would constitute his title. A transfer of a share might be made by deed, a record of the sale being entered in the proprietors' books, or a person might obtain a title to lands by purchasing of a proprietor a right to lay out a certain number of acres in a division already granted, which would be recorded to him in the same manner as to the original owner.

The grant was first made to such inhabitants of Rehoboth as held a fifty-pound estate and upwards, they having made the purchase; but in 1670 all who were then inhabitants of that town were admitted as proprietors, by entering their names, as appears by the following extract from a court order passed October 7th, 1670: —

"Whereas the lands on the northerly side of Rehoboth now sold by deed and passed over to the proprietors of that town, viz., to all that hold lands there from a fifty pounds estate and upwards; yet *by mutual agreement amongst themselves* all the inhabitants were taken in to be joint purchasers, it is determined that the names of such as were not comprehended in the above mentioned deed shall be entered in their town records and in the public records of the colony, to be, if they desire it, as full and equal purchasers and proprietors in those lands as the rest."

These lands were at first exempted from full taxation, "to accommodate the poorer sort with land and yet so as not to oppress them as much otherwise." The court ordered "that all the North lands, both farms and else," should be taxed in a rate separate from the town of Rehoboth, and should pay thirty shillings in a £40 rate to the colony, and in the same proportion in the ministerial and other charges, "until the Court shall see cause otherwise to dispose concerning them, until which time they shall be and remain within the Constablerick of the township of Rehoboth." October 7th, 1670.

The proprietors sometimes exercised legislative powers, which were, however, to some extent, authorized by statute: —

June 10, 1707. "Voted, that all who have lands laid out in the North Purchase and have not renewed their bounds since the 1st of March last, shall, between this date and the last of September next, renew the same, *or forfeit the sum of ten shillings to be recovered as a debt due: the one half to the informer, and the other half to the Proprietors, any one of whom are authorized to prosecute this act.*"

At the same meeting it was ordered that all the timber cut on the undivided lands should be forthwith seized; and a committee was appointed to hear and determine by what right it was cut, and if found without good right, then to take the methods of the law in that case provided.

September 16, 1707. "Voted that the committee, with the surveyor, shall lay out all needful highways for the Proprietors in said Purchase, and make restitution to persons whose lands are taken for this purpose in any of the undivided lands." A large proportion of the highways in this town were laid out by the proprietors, accompanied by the selectmen.[1]

November, 1708.[2] The proprietors chose a committee to look after the northerly bounds of their purchase. At this time commenced the long and tedious contest[3] about the northern boundary of the purchase which was the Old Colony line. The subject was discussed at every meeting, and committees often appointed to devise means of protecting the rights of the purchasers. Petitions were sent to the General Court, counsel were employed to defend their rights; and finally a petition and an agent were sent to England.

July 21, 1714. Voted, "that two acres of land on the hill before Mr. David Freeman's, where the Burying place now is, shall be laid out for a Burying place for Attleborough." This is the graveyard near the village called "the city."

June 13, 1717. "Voted unanimously that Col. Nath'l Paine Esq. Mr. Richard Waterman Esq. Lieut. Anthony Sprague, Mr. Dan. Jenks, and Mr. Dan. Smith be a committee to see to the Northerly bounds, hereby giving them full power to act in all respects in behalf of the whole Propriety concerning running the line between Attleborough, Wrentham,[4] and Dedham, where it ought lawfully to be stated according to our purchase deed."

July 14, 1717. The committee were authorized to defend all suits of law "that may be commenced by any person or persons against the Propriety, and to empower any attorney or attornies that may be needful for advice; and further to commence any action or actions that they may think proper for the benefit of the said Propriety."

November 2, 1720. Voted, "that the former Committee still proceed with their Petitions even until they send to England about the right of our northern line (if they cannot be heard in our own government), and that the expense be paid by the proprietors according to their several interests."

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[1] See *Ply. Rec.*, Vol. 2, pa. 32, 36, 37, 38, 39, 62, 63, 77.

[2] The first commission for settling the line or boundary between Plymouth and Massachusetts was issued June 4, 1639. See *Ply. Rec.*, vol. 1, p. 127. (Given at large there.)

[3] The cause of the dispute was the erroneous running of the line by the commissioners in 1661-64, and the acceptance of the line by them. From that time a controversy commenced and continued for years at great expense. Taunton N. P. and Rehoboth N. P. united in trying to rectify the line, but Massachusetts held them strictly to the compact, though the error was evident.

[4] The Wampanoags' territory extended into Wrentham, etc., to Chickatawbat's lands. See *Clarke's Hist. of Norton.*

Voted, "that one hundred acres of undivided land be sold to defray the expenses of defending the northern line."

At a subsequent meeting in 1752 the clerk was authorized to sell to any of the proprietors seventy-nine and one-half acres of undivided land *at eight shillings lawful money per acre.*

Feb. 21, 1726–27. Voted "that any person or persons who will sue for our rights in the land challenged by Dorchester or Stoughton, Wrentham and Bellingham, and to the South of Nath. Woodward and Solomon Saffray's line, and on the north of the town, and all that part that lieth within their challenge, shall have the fourth part of said tract if they recover it to the use of the Propriety." Major Leonard, Esq., Captain John Foster, and Ensign Daniel Peck appeared in said meeting and accepted the offer.

It is not often that the dull, monotonous pages of a land record are enlivened by the poetic effusions of a rhymster, but the record books of the Rehoboth North Purchase have one such specimen, constituting the foundation of a land title. In these days there lived in town one Joshua Barrows,[1] a very well known *extempore* rhymster, said to be, however, entirely illiterate — unable either to read or write. He was eccentric in his habits and quite a poetizer, of whose productions many specimens were long remembered, and of whose wit and eccentricity tradition long preserved numerous amusing anecdotes. His productions were sometimes satirical and personal as well as humorous. He seems to have suffered the common fate of poets, poverty. He appeared at a meeting of the proprietors, June 5, 1727, and presented a petition in rhyme, begging for a donation for himself of some of the undivided lands. The petition is spread on the records of the propriety at full length, and is as follows: —

Your Honors now I do implore
To read my poor petition;
I hope your hearts will open be
To pity my condition.

Ten acres of the Common Land
I pray that you would give;
Then thankful I will be to you
As long as I do live.

Such a kindness, I must confess,
From you I don't deserve;
But when in health, I freely work —
Why should you let me starve?

From day to day my daily bread
I get it by my sweat;
But to my sorrow, I beg and borrow
When sickness doth me let.

[1] Son of John Barrows of Plymouth, who had several sons, Benath, Joshua, etc.

No more in rhyme here at this time,
No more I have at hand,
And so I'll end, your faithful friend
And servant to command,

JOSHUA BARROWS.

ATTLEBOROUGH, June 5th 1727.

The prayer of this petition our good-humored forefathers could not refuse. "Upon the hearing of the aforesaid petition of Joshua Barrows, there were sundry persons in said meeting, which were proprietors, which gave him land to take up upon their rights — their names are as followeth," etc. — making in the whole thirteen acres, which were laid out and recorded to him.

It appears from the report of a committee that an agent was actually employed in England to defend their boundaries. In their account are the following items: —

	£	s.	d.
Paid for silver money to send to England	21	17	6
Paid to Nath. Brown for carrying the money to Boston to send to England	2	02	6
To expense at Providence when both committees met there to wait on Gov. Jencks, and writing to send to England after his return from England, &c. &c.	1	7	6

Jan. 3, 1750–51. "Chose Col. Thomas Bowen, Maj. John Foster and Capt. Samuel Tyler a committee, fully empowering them to prepare a petition praying the General Court that some effectual method may be taken for the perfecting of a straight line from the middle of Accord Pond (so called) westward to that station which is three English miles south of the southernmost part of Charles River, agreeable[1] to a settlement made by the Government of New Plymouth and the Massachusetts in the year 1640."[2]

Sept. 26, 1751. "Made choice of James Otis,[3] of Boston, and John Foster of Attleborough, Esqrs. a committee in addition to Benjamin Day and Nathaniel Smith (chosen at a former meeting,) to present a petition to be heard at the General Court at their next session, and to pursue said petition until it is fully determined by said Court; and to petition anew if need be, to have the line settled on the northerly part of our Purchase."

May 19, 1752. "Chose a committee and gave them full power to eject any person or persons out of the possession of those lands they have possessed themselves of, within the North Purchase Grant, without the consent of the Proprietors, as also full power to sue and pursue any action brought for the purpose, to final judgment and execution."

May 27, 1754. The committees of Rehoboth North Purchase and Taunton North Purchase entered into an agreement to commence actions of ejectment

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[1] See agreement of Massachusetts and Plymouth on the boundaries, *Ply. Col. Laws*, p. 335.

[2] For fuller description of controversy see Mis. chapter.

[3] Was this James Otis the celebrated orator?

against persons who had intruded upon their respective purchases, the costs to be borne equally by the two proprieties.

Divisions of land in the North Purchase have been made among the proprietors at different times, as follows: —

1	A division of 50 acres to a share was granted		March 18, 1668-9
2	„ „ 50 „ „ „ „ „		Feb. 18, 1684
3	„ „ 50 acres in 2 parts 25 acres each		Oct. 31, 1699
4	„ „ 50 acres in 2 lotments		1703
5	„ „ 50 acres was granted		June 10, 1707
6	„ „ 50 „ „ „		July 21, 1714
7	„ „ 20 „ „ „		Feb. 21, 1726-7
8	„ „ 10 „ „ „		April 14, 1735
9	„ „ 3 „ „ „		April 4, 1760
10	„ „ 2 „ „ „		1793
11	„ „ 2 „ „ „		1801
12	„ „ 1 „ „ „		1820
13	„ „ 1 „ „ „		May 10, 1833

The most valuable parts of this purchase were taken up by these divisions many years since. A small but broken and unproductive fragment, and the last remnant of this common and undivided land, still remained on Cutting's Plain (so called) on the road from East Attleborough at the time this history was first published (1834), but since that time it has all been divided.

From their records and the extracts which have been made, it appears that the proprietors made their own regulations, gave their own titles to lands, and in fact enacted all their laws relative to the ownership and the original conveyance of lands included in their purchases.

NAMES OF THE CLERKS OF THE PROPRIETY.

William Carpenter, Jr.,	chosen	May 17, 1682
Daniel Smith	„	May 31, 1703
Noah Carpenter	„	April 23, 1724
John Robbins, Jr.	„	May 1, 1752
John Daggett	„	Dec. 9, 1763
Ebenezer Daggett	„	July 1, 1793

He continued till his death, March 4, 1832. Lucas Daggett was chosen May 10, 1833, and was the last of the clerks of the propriety.

The last record of the laying out of common or proprietors' land is by Lucas Daggett, Clerk, March 15, 1839. He laid out to Hartford Ide "61 rods of land, more or less."

INDIAN WAR.

The few events connected with this war which occurred here should not be omitted in the history of the town.

The peaceful regions which we now inhabit once resounded with the shrill and terrible warwhoop of the Indian. These fields and woods, these hills and vales were once trod by the wild hunters of the forest. They were the

domain of another race of men, who have long since passed away and are known only by the brief histories and scattered relics which their conquerors have preserved. But whatever relates to them is interesting. They were distinguished by many peculiarities. They had their savage vices, but possessed at the same time their savage virtues. They were hardy, bold, and warlike.

The most important and critical period in the history of the colony was the Indian war of 1675–76. This was a gloomy and fearful period to these infant settlements. The hour of their destruction seemed to be drawing nigh. They were a scattered people — spreading over a wide extent of territory — peculiarly exposed in their lives and property to Indian depredations. The approaching contest required all the patience, fortitude, and courage which men are ever called to exercise. They had to contend against fearful odds. Nearly all the New England tribes, embracing many thousand warriors, had combined for their destruction, guided by the matchless genius of a chief versed in all the arts of savage warfare. It was a war of extermination — a contest for victory in which there was no quarter, no mercy.

In April, 1676, the Indians, having suffered several severe defeats in a body, adopted a new mode of warfare, and dispersed themselves in small parties over the country, burning, killing, and destroying wherever opportunity offered. Among other outrages they attacked Woodcock's garrison, "killed one man, and one of Woodcock's sons, and wounded another, and burnt the son's house." Some circumstances connected with this event appear to have been accurately preserved by tradition, from which and other sources are gathered the following particulars: —

His sons were at work in a cornfield near the house. The Indians concealed in a wood adjoining this field — now the meadow on the east of the turnpike below the bridge — approached to its borders and suddenly fired upon them. The workmen fled to the garrison, leaving the dead body on the field. The Indians, to gratify their spite against the family, cut off the son's head, stuck it on a long pole, which they set up on a hill at some distance in front of the house, and in full view of the family, to aggravate their feelings as much as possible. From this time Woodcock swore never to make peace with the Indians. He ever after hunted them like wild beasts. He was a man of resolute and determined character, and tradition says that not a few fell victims to his vengeance and a sacrifice to the manes of his murdered son.

This attack was in April. The body of his son (whose name was Nathaniel) was buried on the spot where he fell, nearly in the centre of the yard, which has ever since been reserved for a burying ground. This attack was in all probability between the date of Pierce's fight, March 26th, and April 26th, 1676, and *after* the attack on Wrentham, when the town was burnt.

Woodcock's son Nathaniel, as already mentioned, and a son-in-law were killed, and one of his sons was severely wounded by several bullets in both shoulders.

A detail of six soldiers had been sent to this garrison for its protection by the Plymouth government, as may be seen by Woodcock's petition to the General Court on this page. They had been temporarily withdrawn for service elsewhere, leaving him dependent upon his own resources and in great danger from these roving Indians. There were only fourteen persons living in his settlement at the time, consisting of his sons and daughters and sons-in-law, and including two or three others; and probably a man by the name of Rocket, whose signature as a witness appears on several instruments, was one of them.

Under these circumstances Woodcock applies to the authorities for aid and protection from both colonies. In his account he refers to his own losses and to the damage which Wrentham had already sustained by an attack of the Indians. His statements must be regarded as authentic and true, while they correct some mistakes of early historians. (Ancient accounts fix the date incorrectly in May.) He entreats the government to send him a surgeon to dress the wounds of his son, and thinks it might be safe for him if he came in the night time; and he also begs that they would send him half a dozen soldiers to man his garrison and supply the place of those who had been stationed there before, but had been suddenly withdrawn.

The following is the petition: —

Honored Gover. and Council.

I make bold to inform your Honors how God's afflictive hand is upon me and my family. God has been pleased to give the heathen commission to break in upon us, who have slain two of my family, and another of my sons sorely wounded, shot with several bullets in the shoulders — but in the midst of these our afflictions God hath shown us Marcy — I was encouraged by our authority to keep my station, but of a sudden they were pleased to call off my garrison soldiers, not giving me any warning, and I am in a very great strait what to do — we are but 14 of us and but six that bare arms — and most of us sick. I would intreat your Honors to consider our afflicted condition to send me some assistance for the present till my family is able to draw off — and as my house and family have been serviceable to the Country, I desire I may not be forgotten by both Colonies, but would intreat your Honors to send me half a dozen men to relieve my family, for if I were able to go away I could not carry my provisions away with me. I have near a hundred bushels of corn in my house besides other provisions — and I bless God for it, and am very loth to go away and leave it to the heathen. We do judge there is not above twelve or sixteen Indians that have done all this evil to our neighbors at Wrentham — and I would intreat your Honors to send me a surgeon to dress my wounded son. I hope there is no danger to come if they come by night. Not to trouble you any further at present, begging your prayers, hoping God will move your hearts with compassion speedily to send us some relief — so I rest Yours to serve in what I may

April the 26th John Woodcock

I hope I shall be able to satisfy what charge will come upon me.

It may be of interest to learn what effect this petition for assistance had upon the honorable gentlemen to whom it was addressed.

At a meeting of the Council held at Boston, 17th of June 1676, at 8 of the clock —

The Council being informed that the Indians are skulking to and again about Wrentham, Woodcock's, (or Mount Hope,) and have of late done mischief to the English. It is ordered that the Major of Suffolk issue out his orders forthwith for such a party as he judgeth it fit

and necessary to repair to Dedham on 2d day next early, and range the woods to and again for the discovery, distressing and destroying of the enemy where ere they find them, — committing the conduct of that party to whom he sees mete, ordering it that each soldier be compleatly armed with fire arms and ammunition and provisions for four days.

PAST BY THE COUNCIL,

EDW. RAWSON SECT'Y.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAPT. THOMAS BRATTS.

Ordered to take 20 of his troops with such officers as he may choose, and an officer and ten troopers of Lieut. Halley's troope and march to Dedham. where are ordered to be an officer and 18 foot soldiers mounted, from Dorchester, 6 from Roxbury, and 24 from Dedham with an officer, all appointed to be at Dedham the rendevous this day at 4 P.M.

Sc.

You are to march with your troopers and dragoons to be at John Woodcock's by midnight where you shall meet with an Indian Pylot and his file of musketeers, which pylot has engaged to bring you upon Phillip and his company who are not above 30 men as he saith, and not 10 miles from Woodcock's. Be sure to secure your pilot to prevent falsehood and escape. In case you meet not with a pylot at Woodcock's you are to send to Mr. Newman at Rehoboth and let him know of your being there.

Whether Woodcock obtained the surgeon is not known, or the six men permanently, but we may presume he did, from this prompt attention — for those times of slow conveyance of news or needs — paid to his petition for assistance against the "skulking Indians," at that special crisis. These were certainly perilous times.

PIERCE'S FIGHT. — This town was the scene of one of the most severe, bloody, and fatal battles fought during the war. It took place on Sunday, March 26th, 1676, in that part which is now Cumberland, R. I., near the Blackstone River. The place is still pointed out.

The government of Plymouth, fearing that their settlements would be again attacked, after so many outrages had been committed in Massachusetts, ordered out a company for their defence, consisting of sixty-three Englishmen[1] and twenty Cape Indians,[2] under the command of Captain Michael Pierce, of Scituate. He immediately marched in pursuit of the enemy, who were supposed to be in the vicinity. He rendezvoused at the garrison in Rehoboth on Saturday night. The next day, "having intelligence in his Garrison at Seaconicke that a party of the enemy lay near Mr. Blackstone's, he went forth with 63 English and 20 Cape Indians," and soon discovered four or five Indians in a piece of woods who pretended to be lame and wounded, but

[1] Fifty was the number ordered but they received some recruits while at Rehoboth.

[2] This account differs in some respects from that given by Church, who states that there were only fifty whites and twenty Cape Indians. According to Newman's account there were fifty-two English killed, so there must have been more in the battle. I have relied, for the most of the particulars in this description, on a "Continued Account of the Bloody Indian War from March till August 1676," now in the hands of Mr. S. G. Drake, Boston. It was published in London the same year, and contains a minute and apparently accurate detail of this battle and many of the other important events of the war. One volume (the above mentioned), containing three or four letters, has been lately discovered, and was never reprinted in this country. This note has been almost unchanged since 1834. Therefore refers to that time. — EDITOR.

proved to be decoys to lead the whites into ambuscade, for they soon discovered five hundred more of the enemy. The Indian force in this battle was commanded by Canonchet, a Narragansett chief, who was soon after taken prisoner and executed.

Pierce, though aware of their superiority of numbers, courageously pursued them when they began to retreat slowly; but there soon appeared another company of four hundred Indians, who were now able completely to surround him. A party of the enemy were stationed on the opposite side of the river to prevent the English crossing; they were thus attacked in front and rear by an overwhelming force. Thus all chance of retreat and all hope of escape were cut off. This was a most trying moment. But there was no flinching — no quailing. Each one knew that in all human probability he must die on that field, and that too under the most appalling circumstances, by the hand of a merciless enemy who sought their extermination. But bravely and nobly did they submit to their fate. Each one resolved to do his duty and sell his life at the dearest rate. They were truly, "The hopeless warriors of a willing doom." Wounds and death were alike in the hands of such a foe. The wounded must be reckoned with the killed. At such a time the awful warwhoop of the Indian would have sent a thrill of terror to the hearts of any but brave men.

At this critical juncture Captain Pierce made an exceedingly judicious movement. He formed his men into a circle, back to back, with four spaces between each man, — thus enlarging the circle to its greatest extent, — presenting a front to the enemy in every direction and necessarily scattering their fire over a greater surface; whilst the Indians stood in a deep circle, one behind another, forming a compact mass and presenting a front where every shot must take effect. In the words of the account just referred to in the note, "Capt. Pierce cast his men into a ring, and fought back to back, and were double-double distance all in one ring, whilst the Indians were as thick as they could stand thirty deep." He thus made a brave resistance for two hours — all the while keeping the enemy at a distance and his own men in perfect order — and kept up a constant and destructive fire upon the Indians. But no courage or skill could prevail in such an unequal contest or longer resist such a force. At last, overpowered by numbers, Captain Pierce and fifty-five English and ten Cape Indians were slain on the spot, "which in such a cause and upon such disadvantage may certainly be styled the bed of honor."[1] But this victory was gained at a great sacrifice. The Indians lost as many, not counting women and children, as in the great swamp fight at Narragansett, which loss was computed at over three hundred. Other authorities state the number as 140, which in all probability is more nearly correct.

[1] According to Newman the number slain was fifty-two English and eleven Cape Indians.

Hubbard states that when Captain Pierce found what danger he was in he sent a messenger to Providence for assistance; but the message not being delivered at once, the needed aid could not be furnished in time. A tradition in Seekonk says a message was sent by Pierce before he left the garrison there by a man who "attended meeting" in Providence. Not arriving until after the service had begun, he failed to deliver his letter to the captain to whom it was addressed, either from ignorance of its contents or "some other unaccountable cause," and so Captain Pierce and his handful of men had to fight their desperate and bloody fight alone. The captain, it is said, fell "earlier than many others," and Amos, "one of his friendly Indians," bravely and honorably stood by his commander's side and fought "until affairs had become utterly desperate," and then made his escape "by blackening his face with powder," in imitation of the enemy.

Bliss recounts the escape by strategy of several of these Indians. "One being closely pursued by a hostile Indian, sought shelter behind a large rock. Thus the two were watching in awful suspense to shoot each other. But Capt. Pierce's Indian, putting his cap on the end of his gun, raised it to the view of his enemy, who immediately fired at the cap, and the next moment was shot dead by the friendly Indian. Another in his flight, pretended to pursue an Englishman with an uplifted tomahawk, holding it in threatening attitude above his head, and thus escaped. A third, being closely pursued, took shelter behind the roots of a large tree that had been lately turned out of the ground, and the hostile Indian, coming up upon the opposite side, was lying in wait to shoot him on his deserting his station, when the friendly Indian, boring a hole through his broad shield, unobserved by the other, shot him dead."

An important letter, written the day after the battle, the original copy of which is in the library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, gives some facts with regard to this fight which may be taken as authentic, as it was written by the Rev. Noah Newman, the second minister of Rehoboth, to the Rev. John Cotton, of Plymouth.

REHOBOTH, 27 of the first,[1] '76.

Reverend and dear Sir,

I received yours dated the 20th of this instant wherein you gave me a doleful relation of what had happened with you, and what a distressing Sabbath you had passed. I have now, according to the words of your own letter, an opportunity to retaliate your account with a relation of what yesterday happened to the great saddening of our hearts, filling us with an *awful* expectation of what further evils it may be antecedaneous to, both respecting ourselves and you. Upon the 25th of this instant, Capt. Pierce went forth with a small party of his men and Indians with him, and upon discovering the enemy fought him, without damage to himself, and judged that he had considerably damnified them. Yet he, being of no great force, chose rather to retreat and go out the next morning with a recruit of men. And accordingly he did, taking pilots from us, that were acquainted with the ground. But it pleased the Soverign God so to order it, that they were enclosed with a great multitude of the enemy, which hath

[1] Old Style, March first month.

slain fifty-two of our Englishmen, and eleven Indians. The account of their names is as follows. From Scituate, eighteen, of whom fifteen were slain, viz. Capt. Pierce, Samuel Russell, Benjamin Chittenden, John Lothrop, Gershom Dodson. Samuel Pratt, Thomas Savary, Joseph Wade, William Wilcome, Jeremiah Barstow, John Ensign, Joseph Cowen, Joseph Perry, John Rowse, [Rose] Marshfield, nine slain, — Thomas Little, John Eams. Joseph White, John Burrows, Joseph Phillips, Samuel Bump, John Low, More ——, John Brawer. Duxbury, four slain, — John Sprague, Benjamin Soal, Thomas Hunt, Joshua Fobes. Sandwich, five slain, — Benjamin Nye, Daniel Bessey, Caleb Blake, Job Gibbs, Stephen Wing. Barnstable, — six slain, — Lieut. Fuller, John Lewis, Eleazer C—— [probably Clapp], Samuel Linnet, Samuel Childs, Samuel Bereman. Yarmouth, five slain, — *John Matthews*, John Gage, William Gage, Henry Gage, Henry Gold. Eastham, four slain, — Joseph Nessefield, John Walker, John M—— [torn off], John Fitz, Jr. [Fitch], John Miller, Jr.[1] Thomas Man is just returned with a sore wound.

Thus sir, you have a sad account of the continuance of God's displeasure against us: yet still I desire steadfastly to look unto him, who is not only able but willing to save all such as are fit for his salvation. It is a day of the wicked's tryumph, but the same word of God tells us his tryumphing is brief. O that we may not lengthen it out by our sins. The Lord help us to joyne issue in our prayers, instantly and earnestly, for the healing and helping of our Land. Our Extremity is God's opportunity.

Thus with our dearest respects to you and Mrs. Cotton, and such sorrowful friends as are with you, I remain

Your ever assured friend,

NOAH NEWMAN.

It is astonishing to modern readers that the soldiers of the colonies, after so much experience of Indian warfare, should suffer themselves to be so often surprised and led into ambuscades. They had but little difficulty in subduing the enemy in anything like an open fight, which the enemy always avoided, if possible; but their principal losses occurred when and where they incautiously marched into the Indians' ambuscades. It was a constant mode of warfare, and yet hardly a captain who led out his forces against this enemy did not suffer a defeat or great loss by a sudden surprise of his wily foe. It seems to us at this distance of time that there was a constant neglect of proper caution in this respect on the part of the colonists in their frequent contests with the natives.

This was the sorest defeat which the colony of Plymouth suffered during the war and caused great distress everywhere, for the numbers lost amounted to about one third of its regular force. According to Church, not a single white man returned from this bloody and fatal battlefield; but according to Newman, fifty-two of the sixty-three were killed, so some must have escaped.

As soon as the Rehoboth people received information of the dangerous situation of Captain Pierce, they dispatched a company to his assistance, who arrived in season only to perform the last offices to the dead bodies of their countrymen.

The courage and resolution displayed on this occasion deserve commendation. These brave soldiers were entitled to the gratitude of the colony, for

[1] These two were from Rehoboth. The letter doubtless contained two other names, John Read, Jr., and Benjamin Buckland, as they were entered on Rehoboth records as slain on that day. Fourteen names only are given from Scituate.

whose defence they had thus sacrificed their lives. They were taken by surprise and completely surrounded by a force ten times their superior in numbers. Pierce was a bold and adventurous man — fear formed no part of his character. His men partook of his courage. They pushed forward, perhaps imprudently — and thus fell into the snare which their enemy had prepared for them. Considering the numbers engaged, it was doubtless the most warmly and closely contested of all the engagements which took place during that eventful period between the white and the red men. At the lowest estimate two hundred, and according to others nearly four hundred, were killed on both sides. History has recorded with applause every feat of bravery when performed on a more conspicuous station, whilst it has often overlooked the humble though equally meritorious exploit. It requires more true courage to die on such a field with such a foe than on the plains of Waterloo, amid "the pomp and circumstance of glorious war." All historians should call these men truly brave men, and laud them in no measured terms, for this was a most fearful encounter, and they met their deaths like heroes.

The following adventure, in which "Old Woodcock" was engaged, is abridged from a communication in the Massachusetts Historical Collection, furnished by the research of the late Dr. Mann, formerly of Wrentham. It rests upon the authority of tradition, but appears to be well authenticated.

A man by the name of Rocket, in searching for a stray horse, discovered a train of forty-two Indians, about sunset. From their appearance he suspected they intended to attack the settlement at Wrentham the next morning, after the men had dispersed to their work; he therefore followed them secretly till they halted for the night, when he hastily returned to the settlement and gave notice to the inhabitants. A consultation was held, at which it was agreed to attack the Indians early the next morning. A company of thirteen, under the command of Captain Ware, was hastily collected from Wrentham and the vicinity, who, having secured the women and children and the infirm in the garrison, set out for the Indian encampment, where they arrived just before daylight, and were posted within a short distance, with orders to reserve their fire till the enemy began to decamp.

Between daylight and sunrise the Indians suddenly rose from their resting places, when, upon a signal given, a general discharge was made, which threw them into the utmost consternation. Some, in their confusion, while attempting to escape, leaped down a precipice of rocks from ten to twenty feet in height, and some of the fugitives were overtaken and slain. Two of them, who were closely pursued, attempted to conceal themselves in "Mill Brook," where they were found and killed. It is related that one Woodcock discharged his long musket, called in those days a buccaneer, at a fugitive Indian at the distance of eighty rods, and broke his thigh bone and then killed him.

The number of Indians killed was from twenty to twenty-four, and not one of the whites. The place where this bold adventure occurred is in that part of the ancient Wrentham which is now Franklin. The large rock where the Indians were encamped is to this day called *Indian Rock*. The time is not certainly ascertained; but it was, without much doubt, in the spring or summer of 1676, when the Indian forces were dispersed in parties throughout the country. Very probably it was soon after the attack on Woodcock's house and by the same party.

This man Rocket, who was the means of obtaining this victory over the enemy, was one of the witnesses of the original government deed of the Rehoboth North Purchase. He used, it is said, to take his family to meeting ten miles to Rehoboth or five miles to Wrentham, over the rough tracks — they were hardly roads — of those early days, but in what manner we cannot be certain. January 5th, 1680, one Joseph Rocket married Mary Wilmarth, in Rehoboth. If it was the same man, she must have been a second wife, as this Joseph died July 27th, 1683.

We are glad to know of one occasion even when the mode of warfare so continually practised by the red men was successfully adopted by our forefathers, and a complete surprise obtained, followed by the total rout of the enemy.

Nine Men's Misery. — This is the name of a spot in Cumberland, R. I., where nine men were slain in Philip's war. This place is near the house of the late Elisha Waterman, Esq., just north of "Camp Swamp" (so called). The only circumstances of this event which I have gathered are these: A company of nine men were in advance of or had strayed from their party for some purpose, when they discovered a number of Indians near this spot, whom they immediately pursued and attacked; but a large number of the enemy rushed out of the swamp and surrounded them. The whites, placing their backs to a large rock near by, fought with desperation till every one of them was killed on the spot. The rest of their party, who were within hearing of their guns, hastened to their succor, but arrived too late to render them any assistance. Their bodies were buried on the spot, which is now designated by a large pile of stones.

I have seen no notice of this occurrence in history, but as to the main fact there can be no doubt. The bones of these men were disinterred (now many years ago) by some physicians for anatomical purposes, and were found nearly perfect. But the people in the vicinity insisted upon their being restored, which was accordingly done. One of the slain was ascertained to be a Bucklin, of Rehoboth, from the remarkable circumstance of a set of double front teeth which he was known to possess.

The time when this happened none of my informants could tell, but there is some reason for believing that it was at or about the time of Pierce's fight.

The above account of the existence of "Nine Men's Misery" (or "Dead Men's Bones," as it was sometimes called) was received by the author from tradition, from intelligent persons living in the vicinity, who had been familiar with the locality during their lives, and who were descendants of those who settled and lived near the spot. As to the main fact, he felt there was no doubt, for such an event as the slaughter of nine men in one spot during the Indian war and their burial on the same spot would produce a deep impression on the minds of those living in that locality, and would be transmitted to succeeding generations, especially as some of the victims were their own friends and neighbors. The incidents and circumstances attending the event would be liable to uncertainty, but the existence of the large rock and the artificial mound of small stones would tend to confirm the tradition and indicate the place of burial.

Since the publication of the above account a most singular and remarkable discovery has been made confirming the tradition as an historical fact. This is the letter of Rev. Mr. Newman, quoted on a previous page, which gives the names of the killed in Pierce's fight. The fact that the medical students, from curiosity or to verify the tradition, or other motives, did visit the spot and exhume the bodies, and prove their identity by that of Benjamin Buckland (or Bucklin), of Rehoboth, from his unusually large frame and "double set of teeth all around," has also been substantiated. What is still more remarkable than the discovery of the letter, the author met a physician soon after the publication of this history, in 1834, who took pains to state that he had read the account of "Nine Men's Misery," and was able to testify that it was substantially correct, as he was one of the "medical gentlemen" present, and aided in the exhumation and finally examined the bones. Having this statement directly from his own mouth, it is personal knowledge of the event, so far as this fact shows.

The questions arise — Who were the nine? and When were they slain? and What was the cause? This also is solved. There were four men from Rehoboth killed in Pierce's fight, and their names are recorded on the records kept for the Rehoboth North Purchase, as "Slaine 26 March 1676." Two of them, John Fitch, Jr., and John Read, Jr., were entered first, and at some distance on the page were entered the other two, Benjamin Buckland and John Miller, Jr.,[1] thus proving that they were a part of Pierce's men, and were slain on the same day of the battle. This confirms my belief that after the battle was lost these nine survivors attempted to escape and retreated to this "Camp Swamp," in hopes of concealing themselves there from the enemy, but were discovered, pursued, and overtaken by them, surrounded at this rock, and there killed. They were probably not discovered at the time the

[1] Robert Beers, an Irishman, and then an inhabitant of Rehoboth, was slain March 28th, and Nehimiah Sabin in June following.

Rehoboth people went to the scene of the battle and buried their friends on the field, but were afterwards discovered by them and buried on the spot where they fell, which was properly called these nine men's misery, who had so nearly effected their escape and were thus slaughtered. It is seldom that such an event not mentioned by contemporary historians can be so well established by subsequent evidence.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN.

The warrants for the early town meetings contained but few articles, perhaps ten or twelve, while that of the year 1887 contained fifty-five, and there have at times been more than that number. The most important actions for a number of years were naturally those relating to the settling of ministers — for the first candidate was apparently not more sure to please then than now — and the building of a church with various arrangements for the support and comfort of the minister when obtained. These actions of the town will be noticed in their proper department, such matters being now in the hands of the separate parishes, not in those of the people "in town meeting assembled."

As time went on the cause of education arose — a matter of constantly increasing importance, until now it has assumed very great proportions, both as to size and cost, but is thoroughly systematized and well managed.

Now and again, very early, votes are found relating to the laying out of roads as they became needed to connect the various settlements scattered over the territory. Now it is not the making of thoroughfares from part to part of the town which claims the attention of the citizens, but the lighting of the many already made, the laying out and curbing of streets in the villages, and the laying of gas, water, and sewerage pipes.

The poor of the town soon appeared upon the books, being coexistent with the establishment of every town, church, or social organization. At first they were cared for by the selectmen or others receiving them into their families, the town being responsible for their maintenance. At the town meetings their names were presented and they were auctioned off to those willing to assume their care, and who made bids for the *privilege* (?). It would seem that at such a *vendue* competition could not be very great, since prices must be in a descending, not ascending, scale over these articles — which increased in expense as they decreased in value — and the forlorn creatures thus "as it were on sale," were knocked down to the lowest bidder.

Action was often taken upon the cattle and swine then permitted to roam at will everywhere about the roads, the former being marked in various ways and the latter properly ringed. Every few pages during the records of the earlier years the searcher of the books comes upon accounts of "perambulating the lines" between this and the surrounding towns, these same

boundary lines proving most uneasy of arrangement and a constant source of controversy even down to the present time.

It is not possible in a work of this kind to give a complete account of the measures taken by the town, but an extract quoted here and there from the books will serve to show something of the questions arising year by year, and of the modes of settlement adopted by our fathers — to show also something of the manners and customs as they have been made and changed, and, by contrast, the growth of the town, not only in wealth and population, but in various other ways.

The North Purchase books contain the "laying out of the lands," but an occasional reference is made to individual lay-outs in the town books: —

"Dec. ye 26, 1704. Joseph Read, Negro," had a "lott" of twelve and a half acres laid out to him; also two other lots containing six and one fourth acres in 1707. "John Read, Negro" had lands laid out November 17, 1719. These may have been the lands occupied by such a family on the Daggett farm, lying on what is known as the "New Boston" road.

Town debts were apparently sometimes fully paid with a surplus in the treasury.

February 9, 1709. "Voted to hold town meetings at the house of Mr. William Stark until the town should be better provided." The meetings then were at nine o'clock in the morning. For some years, at this period, the town was chiefly occupied on the minister's house, lands, the church, etc., and that work, with money accounts, largely occupied the meetings.

In 1714 it was voted that several persons, six in all, should build pounds at their "own cost and charge."

The first mention of the poor on the books is among the accounts for 1713, the entry being made October 5, 1714. "Memorandum, Eleven shillings of the money that was received of Capt. Leonard for the poor went to pay Hugh Gay's rate, and the other four remains in the town stock for the poor."

August 27, 1716. "The Town very Chearfully granted a Tax of a Hundred and Ten pounds to Defray the Necessary Charges arising within sd Town. Two thirds to be in money and the other third to be understood in the species that use to be other years."

December 30, 1718, the town was divided into four quarters, and later the consequent highways laid out are noted with descriptions of the same.

The first recorded account rendered to the town for care of poor persons was one presented by Daniel Peck, under date, October 22, 1722, for care of Martha Scot and her child, as follows: 8s. 6d. for Doctor; 10s. 6d. for three weeks board in sickness; 1£. 1s. for board other seven weeks; 11s. for the child for five weeks and four days; total, 2£. 11s.

There are yearly votes as to cattle and swine, with no variation up to April, 1828, when it was voted that horses and neat cattle were to be restrained from running at large. So long as they roamed the public roads some mode

of recognizing his property was necessary to the owner, and many pages of the books are filled with the descriptions of these animal marks. Two or three are given as a curiosity: —

"The Ear-mark of the creatures belonging to Thomas Butler is as follows — viz — A swallows tail on the top of the near ear. Enterd Oct. 19, 1719, A.D." "The Ear mark of the creatures of Benj. Ide, Jr. is as follows — viz.; two round holes in the right ear, being the ear mark that was Saml Healys. Entered Nov. 12, 1750." "Where as the ear mark of the creatures of John Robbins, Jr. was a cut across the underside of the right ear, — It being oftentimes not easily seen, it is altered — And is two half pennies on the underside of the left ear. Entered Dec. 16, 1750." "The ear mark of the creatures belonging to Michael Sweet is a plain crop of the top of ye left ear, and a slit across the under side of the same ear, — and was formerly Benj. Butler's. Entered, Aug. 6, 1763."

In 1732 it was agreed to pay Captain Foster for his services to the General Court six shillings per day.

In 1745 Cumberland was separated from Attleborough by royal charter; that is, by order of the "King in Council," which was assuming arbitrary authority and measures over those distant colonies. The new boundaries established by this charter took from Massachusetts and annexed to Rhode Island a fine tract of land including all Bristol County, R. I., Tiverton, in Newport County, and Cumberland,[1] in Providence County.

During the year 1747 a petition from several towns was presented to the General Court, asking that Dighton be made the county town in place of Taunton. Three men of this town were chosen as agents to look into this matter and report. They reported: "They are of opinion that Tanton will be most Benefitiall for the County." These men were chosen a committee to "draw up" the reasons of the town for voting against the petition, and Captain Samuel Tyler was appointed to convey them to the General Court.

In 1759 there was an attempt made to keep a record of births, but the book purchased that year for the town was the only one for many years, and therefore those earlier records are very incomplete. In 1760 the town was divided into twelve parts, and in 1761 £50 were appropriated for schools, and the same amount for the poor.

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[1] Cumberland comprised nearly half of the original town. Its area is about 28 square miles, and taken together is an excellent tract of land. It is good for grain and orcharding, and especially for grass, which is cut in great abundance. Some parts of the town, however, are light and sandy. It was incorporated in 1746. It was previously called Attle. Gore. It is well adapted to manufacturing purposes, having three streams, Abbott's Run, Mill and Peter's rivers, besides the Blackstone, which is its western boundary. About 1830 it had eight cotton manufacturing establishments, running 5,524 spindles, one woolen factory, two clothiers' works, six grain mills, nineteen shops for building boats, in which were made annually about 700 boats, which were worth from $20 to $70 each. It had besides, 1 nail factory, 1 marble mill, 306 dwelling houses, 280 electors, 3 companies of militia, 1 rifle corps, and part of a company of cavalry. Its population in 1810 was 2,110. But the town has since materially increased in population and amount of business. It had four religious societies: two Baptists, one Methodist, and one Quaker. Taxable property in 1815 was $528,220.

These are the statistics published in the earlier edition of this work. The editor was unable to obtain the corresponding statistics for the present date, which would have been interesting by contrast.

In 1766 the following instructions were sent to the town's deputy: —

To Deacon Ebenezer Lane, Rep.

Sir as we have made choys of you to represent us at the Grait and General Court of this Province, we think proper to give sume Instructtions, and first not to Give up any Priviliges that we Enjoy Either by Charter or as Subjects of Grait Britton.

2ly to Be frugal of the Province's money and not to vote for any uncommon Grants perticklerly as to Loses that Sume has Sustaned in Boston in the year 1765 By Rioters, though we abhor all Rioters and tumultus Proceedings and are willing to Bear our testymony against them, yet we see no Reason why the Province should make up those Losses and thairfour Instruct to vote against It.

September 12, 1768. "Voted to Build a house for Keeping the Town Stock of ammunition in for the futer and proseaded to Chuse a commety for that purpos namely Capt. John Stearns, Capt. Daniel Read, Capt. Heury Sweet ware chosen as commety men for that purpos, and then the commety went and looked a place to set s'd. house and they said that they found a place in Jacob Newells Land which s'd Newell said he wold give the ground to buld the hous upon." Jacob Newell, the giver of the land, was town treasurer at that time, and he made the following entry upon the book: "Where as ye Town of Attleborough have agreed to Buld a Powder house and set s'd house on ye High Hill eastardly from ye Meeting-House on my Land I give liberty to set s'd House their, and also for my Heirs and assigns I agree ye People shall have Liberty to Pass to and from sd House to carry their Powder or any other amminitiou and bring of again ye same at any time or times so that they in Passing Regurly Not to Leve Down fence or any Enclosen thing to Do Damage as witness my hand —

"Attleborough, Oct. ye 4th 1768 Jacob Newell."

The committee executed their commission promptly, as the building was erected during the mouths of October and November and the accounts for cost of construction were settled in December. This old building is still in existence and may be seen on a little eminence east of the church at West Attleborough in the same lot or near the schoolhouse. It is circular in shape, nearly twelve feet in diameter, with a cone-shaped roof. It was built of brick, of which six thousand were used, as may be seen by the order of the selectmen on the town treasurer. It was used as a storehouse for "materials of war" both during the days of the Revolution and the War of 1812, and powder was kept there even up to recent times. Colouel John Daggett took his supply for the Assonett expedition from there, and the town voted to replace the amount during the following year. The building is now dilapidated and going to decay,[1] but it is full of old memories still. Had it powers of speech every brick could tell some exciting or thrilling tale, for three times since they were placed in their positions the war bugles have sounded the call to arms, and three times the joy bells have rung in the days of peace. In 1771 the General Court met at Harvard College.

[1] It has been repaired, and at the present writing is in good condition. It is now within the limits of North Attleborough. The repairs were made by individuals, and about 1872.

CHAPTER V.

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

IT appears from our records that the citizens of the town took an early and active part in those proceedings which finally led to independence. The spirit of the Revolution began to move the people as early as 1773. They began to discuss the origin and foundation of their rights, and to proclaim, in bold language, their determination to maintain them. They strenuously denied the claims of the mother country. This prepared the way for that great contest which was approaching and which soon after commenced.

Pages might be filled with the spirited addresses and resolutions adopted in town meeting, but the limits of such a work as this will permit only an outline of the transactions of that day.

At a town meeting, January 18th, 1773, a resolute and patriotic address was adopted and sent to the committee in Boston. It is too long to quote entire, but a few extracts will afford a specimen: —

"We His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects and freeholders of the town of Attleborough, to the Committee of Correspondence in Boston."

After due professions of "honor and praise to George the 3d, King of Great Britain," etc., and praying that the "golden chance of succession by which the Protestant kings are held on the throne of Great Britain may never be broken," etc., the address proceeds to say: —

Our present trials are very great. A wise king once said that oppression maketh a wise man mad. We hope not to turn maniacs, but to keep the advantage of our spirits. We will pray that all they that are like Gods on earth will remember that they must die like men, and the lofty, towering heads of Kings and Princes must be brought as low as the meanest subject. And here we will make a pause and inquire what we have done, what disloyalty there hath been in us that hath incurred the displeasure of our Gracious Majesty, that could be the cause of threatening the ruining of us his American subjects. And to set things in a clearer light, we may be justly entitled to a few notes of exultation. In the year 1745, when the British trumpet sounded war from beyond the seas to the Americans, no sooner did our American Parliament understand the certain sound of the martial trumpet but instantaneously a political convention is called, faithfulness and loyalty in every countenance. Like Babylon of old, one messenger runs to meet another, and one post to meet another, to tell the whole Province that the Kingdom was invaded at one end. Forthwith orders are issued out to the Colonels, and from the Colonels to the Captains, and at the beat of the Drum, volunteers paraded the ground like well harnessed soldiers with courage bold, and like the war-horse mocking at fear, marched with their commanders to the high places of Louisbourg — stormed their entrenchments; made a discovery of their subterraneous mines and galleries; beat down the strongholds; brake the jaws of the Gallic Lion, and made a conquest of the city to the crown of Great Britain. And in the last war that hath been upon us, we have joined our British brethren, warring and fighting through seas of blood until we subdued the Canadian Province

to the crown of our Sovereign Lord George the 3d. And after all this, shall we be conjugated, enslaved and ruined? Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath lest they be discouraged on the one hand, and encouraged on the other. We esteem our privileges tantamount to our lives, and the loss of them death in consequence; and since there is no new discovered America for us to flee to, we are almost ready to think that we will let go our ploughshares and pruning hooks to be malleated on the anvil, and not give up our dear-bought privileges to any Power on earth.

And now in a few words to say what our privileges are and wherein they are violated: We think that our privileges take their rise merely from nature. As we emigrated from our mother country at our own expense and without any charge to the Crown of Great Britain, our subjection to the Crown of Great Britain must be considered as an act of our own election. How far that subjection was made and in what manner the British government can possibly reach over the Atlantic to have any influence at all upon us, is known only by the stipulation between us and the king of Great Britain, expressed in our Charter. Although it be allowed that any Plantation settled by the order and expense of any State remains naturally subjected to that State, yet that not having been the case in our departure from Great Britain we utterly disallow any right of government over us but what is expressed in our Charter. We have no natural and necessary connection with the Crown in point of government but what springs from our own choice, and that choice can be known but by the stipulation aforesaid which both expresseth and limiteth the subjection which was our choice. This, we apprehend, is the true and just state of our privileges, as they are interested in the present controversy. So that, whatever act of government is exercised contrary to, or not expressly provided for in the Charter, is an open infringement of our privileges.

The appointment of a Governor altogether independent on us, and who, according to the present state of things, can be under no influence from our interest but whose personal interest may naturally put him to the utter overthrow of our whole interest, — we apprehend this to be an infraction of our Charter rights and privileges. The appointment of Judges from home, if true, or the maintenance of them independent upon us and dependent entirely upon the Crown, we think an infringement upon our Charter rights, and which tends to corrupt and destroy the very essence of our privileges. — The parting our money among a set of men of no use to us or the community, without our consent, is a bold and unjust infringement upon our privileges. — The subjecting civil cases to trial by Court of Admiralty instead of Juries, and especially the taking from us the right of trying capital cases in any articles, and carrying our brethren, on suspicion of guilt, from all who are acquainted with their character, or who can possibly do them justice, and ordering them to be transported, at almost infinite expense three thousand miles for trial, is a most barbarous, unjust, and unconstitutional affair, and as cruel as the ostrich.

Sept. 12, 1774. The town chose a committee to join with the committees of the other towns in this county "to consult the safety and peace and prosperity thereof, as well as the whole government and continent, upon any emergency." The committee consisted of five; namely, Mr. Edward Richards, Dea. Eben. Lane, Capt. John Daggett, Lieut. Moses Wilmarth, and Mr. Elisha May. This was the first committee of safety chosen in this town. The practice of choosing such a committee was continued till the close of the Revolution.

Sept. 29, 1774. Captain John Daggett was chosen "Representative to the General Court" at Salem, and Dea. Eben. Lane, as "a committee man to join the Provincial Congress to be holden at Concord on the second Tuesday of October next."

Dec. 6, 1774. The town established a "Superior and an Inferior Court to hear and determine controversies that have arisen or may arise in this town."

Five men were chosen to serve as superior judges; namely, Dea. Eben. Lane, first justice, Col. John Daggett, second, Capt. John Stearns, third, Capt. Moses Wilmarth, fourth, and Doct. Bezaliel Mann, fifth. Seven were appointed inferior judges; namely, Mr. Edward Richards, Lieut. Elkonah Wilmarth, Capt. Jacob Ide, Capt. Stephen Richardson, Mr. Elisha May, Capt. John Tyler, and Mr. William Stanley. At the same time it was voted, "that we will comply with, stand to, and abide by the Resolves, Instructions and Directions of the Continental and Provincial Congresses," and that "all persons who refuse to comply with them shall be treated as *Infamous Persons.*"

It was also voted to choose "a committee of Inspection to inquire and give notice of all persons who shall presume to make use of any *India Tea* after the first of March next, and the names of the men chosen for said committee are as follows; viz., Ephraim Newell, Capt. Henry Sweet, Benjamin Tingley, Mayhew Daggett, Enoch Robinson, Araunah Tingley, John Tyler, Jr., Nath[l] Bishop, Alexander Foster, Wm. Atwell, Jabez Gay, Levi Maxcy, Caleb Richardson." The "affair of the chest of tea at Capt. Richardson's, was left discretionary with the Selectmen."

These were no halfway measures, and were supported throughout with the same resolution.

January 2, 1775. Chose Colonel John Daggett "to represent us at the Congress to be holden at Cambridge on the 1st of February next and to serve in that capacity until the month of May next, or until the time fixed for the dissolution of said Congress." At the same time a committee of thirteen was chosen to procure "subscriptions for the relief of the suffering poor in the town of Boston."[1] At a meeting lawfully warned for May 16, 1775, the warrant was issued "By request of the Provincial Congress."

May 24, 1775. Captain John Stearns was chosen to represent the town at the Provincial Congress to be held in the meetinghouse at Watertown the 31st instant. The Committee of Correspondence this year were Deacon Eben. Lane, Doctor Mann, and Captain Moses Wilmarth.

July 10, 1775. Captain John Stearns was elected representative to the General Court to be held at Watertown the 19th instant.

March 19, 1776. The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety were Deacon Lane, Edward Richards, Capt. S. Richardson, Lieut. Alexander Foster, Ens. Noah Fuller, William Stanley, Capt. Wilmarth, Eben. Tiffany, Samuel Atherton, Thomas Starkey, Elkonah Wilmarth, Nathaniel Bishop, and Capt. Jacob Ide.

May 22, 1776. Captain John Stearns, Representative. At his request, a committee, consisting of Capt. Elisha May, Capt. Stephen Richardson, Rev. Peter Thacher, Levi Maxcy, and Lieut. Alexander Foster, was chosen to draw

[1] This was on the occasion of shutting the port of Boston by the British Parliament.

up instructions for the representative. They made a report, from which extracts are given: —

CAPTAIN JOHN STEARNS,

Sir, — The town, reposing special confidence in your ability and integrity, have chosen you their representative at the Great and General Court for this year. At your request we take the liberty to suggest the following things to your attention as matters of great importance:

If the Continental Congress should think it best to declare for Independency of Great Britain, we unanimously desire you for us to engage to defend them therein with our lives and fortunes.[1]

The fortifying and sufficiently providing for the defence of all our seaport towns, especially the Metropolis of this Colony, is of such consequence as that parsimony or delay therein will be the worst of policy. We apprehend that the raising of soldiers for the defence of the Colony is retarded, and so rendered both more chargeable and less useful, for want of sufficient bounty to encourage enlistments; that the raising fewer forces at such a time than is necessary, which scatters the officers with whom whoever enlists will desire to be acquainted is a like hindrance to a speedy raising of forces.

Having heard a motion hath been made for paying representation out of the Publick chest, we think is unequal and expect you will oppose it. The charge of the selectmen in the service of the public hath been unequal in respect of the poor of Boston, and other matters in different towns, and therefore ought to be born by the publick. If the Continental Congress should declare for Independency we desire in the new regulation the probate and register office be lodged in each town.

Other things in general we refer to your wisdom and fidelity, unless some special difficulty should occur, in which case you will please take our minds as occasion shall serve.

At the same time it was voted that the selectmen should order the money out of the treasury to pay the minute-men who marched on the alarm occasioned by the battle at Bunker Hill.

July 6, 1776. "Voted to raise the Bounty from £3, to £12, for the soldiers this town is to furnish to go to New York."

October 11, 1776. "To Mr. Ephraim Newell, Town Treasurer, Greeting. This comes to order you to pay to Col. John Daggett twenty four pounds five shillings for his attendance and travel at the Congress in ye year 1774–75 — ninety seven days at five shillings per day." Eighty-seven men were paid six shillings each "for marching on the alarm occasioned by the battle at Bunker Hill." Order dated July 5, 1776.

The warrant for this October meeting was for the first time "In the name of the Stat and People of Massachusetts Bay, in Newingland," and this or "Government and People of Massachusetts Bay" was the form for some years. Previous to this time the warrants had been issued in "His Majesty's Name," or "Province of Massachusetts Bay."

January 27, 1777. Voted to raise the bounty for the soldiers who went

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[1] This seems to have been conceived in something of that holy ardor, that sublime spirit of patriotism and self-devotion, which — in a few months after — dictated those ever-memorable words in the closing sentence of the Declaration of Independence, — "We pledge our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor," — immortal words, which sent such a thrill to the hearts of our countrymen and inspired them with such an unconquerable enthusiasm in the cause of freedom!

to New York in July last, to forty dollars for each man, "to such as will take it."

March 18, 1777. The Committee of Correspondence, Inspection, and Safety this year were Ed. Richards, Cyrel Carpenter, Samuel Tiffany, Jr., Elisha May, and Nathan Tyler.

April 2, 1777. A meeting was held "to see if the town will give some encouragement to the soldiery to enlist our proportion of the fifteen battalions granted by this State to join the Continental army." A committee was chosen to report upon the subject, and also to state what was an average on the whole since the war commenced, who reported that the bounty and wages given by Congress and our Court afforded a sufficient encouragement for the first year's service; that for the second year the town allow two pounds per month in addition to the wages, and the same for the last year. Twenty-four pounds in addition to the bounty instead of the addition to their wages was offered to those who might prefer it. The committee also reported that the eight months' men, or those who went into service in consequence of Lexington battle, have no allowance; that the six weeks' and two months' men have no allowance; that the year's men be allowed ten pounds per man; that the Dorchester men have no allowance; that the men raised for two months in September, 1776, be allowed seven pounds per man; that the men raised for the northern or Canada expedition be allowed ten pounds per man; that the quarter men, or those raised for Howland's Ferry, be allowed six pounds per man.

May 22, 1777. Chose Captain John Stearns and Mr. William Stanley representatives. Appointed a committee to prepare instructions to said representatives; namely, Rev. Peter Thacher, Capt. Elisha May, Col. John Daggett, Capt. Moses Wilmarth, Mr. Levi Maxcy. Their report, it appears, is not recorded.

"Excused Capt. May from serving on Committee of Correspondence, &c. and elected Stephen Fuller in his room. Voted to enlarge said committee, and added Zephaniah Bishop, Jacob Cushman, and John Sweetland."

The town expenses for this year were £1,922 old money.

January 12, 1778. A committee consisting of Rev. Mr. Thacher, Capt. Elisha May, Col. Stephen Richardson, Deacon Stanley, Capt. Caleb Richardson, Lieut. Elkanah Wilmarth, and Mr. John Wilkinson was chosen to prepare instructions to the representatives of the town, relative to the Articles of Confederation. They presented a report which was accepted. It shows how perfectly convinced at that time our forefathers were of the value and importance of a firm union of the States to the well-being of the whole people.

To show the sentiments of the people a few extracts are given: —

The subscribers, being chosen a committee "to consider what instructions it may be proper for them to give their representatives relative to the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual

Union which are proposed to the consideration of the Legislatures of all the United States as the basis thereof forever," and also " relative to the Resolves of the most Honorable Congress, of the 7th and 22d of November last," having maturely considered the said Articles and Resolves do humbly offer the following to the consideration of the town on this very important subject:

To Messrs. John Stearns, and William Stanley Representatives of the town of Attleborough, Gentlemen,

We shall rejoice at the arrival of the happy hour when the Independent States of North America have a Union established upon equitable terms to continue as long as the sun and moon endure. We are sensible of the utility and necessity of such a union to our present exertions and the success of them, as well as for the strength and flourishing condition of these States hereafter. We would, therefore, be as distant as possible from offering anything to obstruct the speedy accomplishment of a thing so desirable; yet we are constrained to desire explanation of the 4th paragraph in the 5th Article which determines, that, in deciding questions in the United States in Congress assembled, each State shall have one vote, which, if it exclude a voice in Congress proportioned to the number or estate of the different States, we apprehend, would be very unequal and not to be by any means consented unto, etc.

After stating specific objections to some other articles, the report concludes: " With the foregoing emendations and explanations, we desire you to use your endeavors that the Delegates in Congress be impowered to ratify the aforesaid Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union. As to the Resolves of the most Hon'ble Congress, we only observe upon the 5th and 6th Resolves that the Regulating Bill formerly enacted and since repealed, though framed with an honest and good design, yet was, as we apprehend, very injurious to the good and honest people of this State, and was of no use to restrain oppressors and monopolizers, but rather put an advantage of oppression into their hands, and was a great means of sinking the value of our money, and, therefore, we expect and desire you to oppose the carrying of the said resolutions into execution.

At the same meeting a committee was appointed to draft a petition, which was sent to the General Court, earnestly praying for the repeal of an Act calling in the Bills of Credit, or State Money. In this petition the people expressed their fears of the consequences which would result from that Act to the interests of the poor, etc., in the following words: —

To the Great and General Assembly of the State of Massachusetts Bay. Gent^m^.

A petition by the inhabitants of the town of Attleborough most humbly sheweth, — Though at the eleventh hour, we beg leave as friends to the good people of this State to express our concern for an Act to draw in the Bills of Credit of the several denominations in this State. Notwithstanding the address of the House of Representatives to the good people of this State setting forth the necessity of calling in the Bills of Credit, and the difficulty of calling them in any other way, and notwithstanding this and many other plausible pretences in said address, we cannot but be concerned for a future day — the putting said money into notes on interest is the least of our concern; but as it is the intention of the Assembly of this State and the Continental Congress to bring down the price of labor and produce perhaps five (or) six parts; — Consequently said notes must double five times the value they were took for beside the interest, — whether will it be easier for the poor to pay said money when a day's work will pay eight shillings, or in a year or two when to have a day's labor pay two shillings — It seems to be implied in said address, that the rich and ill disposed persons in this State have got such advantage of the poor that there is no remedy the poor must suffer — Let that be granted it is not policy in our opinion to crush the poor at this day if it be possible to avoid it till America has obtained her freedom, for if this Continent must be defended and set at liberty by arms the poor must do it for the lowest capacity must be sensible that a man that has by monopoly got these increasing notes will never enter into the service of his country for the little or nothing encouragement that soldiers have at present or if the Court intend to hold the levies by draft from the Militia, as seems intended in the case a rich man does no more than a poor man — his estate does nothing.

Our humble petition is that said Act be repealed, or some amendment be made. We have waited a long time in hopes that you would repeal that Act without our troubling you with petitions but as we have hitherto been disappointed we are obliged in justice to ourselves and to our posterity, earnestly to pray for a speedy repeal of that Act — Why might not the money have been called in by degrees as it was put out, that is one emission at a time by taxing the inhabitants of said State, until the whole was called in.

Attleborough, Jan. 19th, 1778.

Nathaniel Bishop.
Daniel Daggett.
William Bolcom.
Thomas Starkey.
Daniel Richardson.
John Richardson.
Moses Tyler.

March 17, 1778. The Committee of Correspondence, etc., were Elkanah Wilmarth, Ebenezer Tiffany, and Ephraim Allen, Jr.

The declaration that all men are born "free and equal" appears to have had a speedy practical effect in at least one instance in our town, as may be seen by the following extract from the records:—

"To all People to whom these Presents shall Come Greeting. Know all men that for Divers Good Causes and Considerations I have seet at Liberty and Given unto my Servant — Warrack a Negro man his freedom to be for him self and Do hereby Certifie that I have no more Demands on him for any Further service —

Attleborough, March 17th, 1778 John Sweetland.

Signed in the Presence of us

Witnesses, Elisha May,
Richard Ellis, Jr."

May 12, 1778. "Voted to pay thirty pounds to each soldier who shall enlist in the Continental army, to complete the number (thirteen) required of this town, by a late resolve of the General Court." Also voted to give thirty pounds more as a bounty.

May 21, 1778. The committee chosen at a former meeting to consider the "Constitution"[1] lately submitted to the people, not agreeing upon a report, the town appointed another committee of seven; namely, Rev. P. Thacher, Rev. Habijah Weld, Elder Job Seamans, Doct. Bezaliel Mann, Col. John Daggett, Col. Stephen Richardson, and Capt. John Stearns, who finally made a report. The vote in town stood 51 affirmative and 76 negative.

March 16, 1779. The Committee of Safety were Capt. Caleb Richardson, John Damon, Elijah Wellman.

April 5, 1779 there appears an order to Daniel Tiffany for the "sum of ten

[1] This was the first frame of government submitted to the people of this State. It was framed by a convention in 1778–79, and is commonly called the "Rejected Constitution."

pounds ten shillings, it being due to him for carting soldier's packs to Howland's Ferry in Sept. 1777. it being thirty five miles."

May 1, 1779, the town was assessed £2083 17. 6d, and for the expenses for the year £10,000 was to be raised — old money.

May 18, 1779. Elisha May, Esq., was chosen representative. "Voted to empower our representative to vote for the calling of a convention for the sole purpose of framing a new constitution."

June 21, 1779. Voted to raise thirteen soldiers — to serve nine months — as this town's proportion of the fifteen battalions furnished by this State to fill up the Continental army, and a committee of five was chosen to engage these men on the best terms possible. On the question of having a new constitution there were 121 votes in favor, and none in the negative recorded.

August 2, 1779. This town sent three members to the convention which formed the present "Constitution of Massachusetts."

"Chose Col. John Daggett, Capt. John Stearns, and Major Elisha May to attend the Convention[1] at Cambridge, on the first of September next for the sole purpose of framing a new Constitution."

The town then took into consideration the proceedings of the convention held at Concord for regulating articles of merchandise and country produce, and voted unanimously to accept the doings of said convention, "and to conform ourselves to the proposed regulations."

"Chose Col. Stephen Richardson, Mr. Levi Maxcy, and Mr. Edward Richards members of the convention to be held at Concord, on the first Wednesday of October next."

March 21, 1780. The Committee of Safety were David Richardson, Capt. Moses Wilmarth, and William Morse.

May 2, 1780. The new "Constitution" was referred to a committee.

June 14, 1780. "Voted to raise twenty-nine soldiers for six months, as this town's quota, to re-inforce the Continental army, according to a Resolve of the General Court of June 5th, 1780." They were to be paid by a tax on the town.

Sept. 4, 1780. "Voted to raise £12,000 pounds to defray the expenses of the town the current year. Also voted to raise £1,400 hard money to pay the soldiers who may engage to serve in the army for three and for six months, according to resolves of the General Court of June 5th, 22d, and 23d."

Oct. 16, 1780, the town levied a tax of £24,000, to procure 14,000 weight of beef required of the town by a resolve of the General Court. On the 24th the town had raised £16,800 — old money.

Elisha May, Esq., was chosen representative the two following years,

[1] This convention met at the meetinghouse in Cambridge, September, 1779, continued till the 7th, and then adjourned to October 28th; then met and continued till November 11th, and adjourned to January 5th, 1780, at the Representatives' Chamber, Boston; then met and continued till March 2d, and adjourned to June 7th; then met and continued till June 16th, when it was dissolved.

which brings us to the close of the Revolution. There were no transactions of particular interest relating to the war during those two years, though the few following extracts from the records may prove worthy of notice: —

January 31, 1781. "Voted to class the inhabitants of said town for the purpose of raising twenty seven men, for three years or during the war, agreeable to the recommendation of the General Court, the vote of said town of the 24th of January to the contrary notwithstanding." This was reconsidered.

February 26, 1781. "Voted the sum of 3000 *dollars* hard money for the purpose of raising men for three years; then voted that the selectmen shall give their notes to such soldiers as will be willing to receive them, and that they hire money to pay the remainder." A transaction quite similar to many of the present generation, and its soldiers of the civil war.

The warrant for the annual town meeting for 1781, bearing date March 20th of that year, is the first one found on the records in which the "Greeting" comes "in the Name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." Doubtless some of the warrants during the preceding year were thus issued, but they are not recorded. As we have seen, three men from this town were members of the congress which framed and adopted the State Constitution, with the following introductory words: "The people inhabiting the territory formerly called the Province of Massachusetts Bay, do hereby solemnly and mutually agree with each other, to form themselves into a body politic, or state, by the name of the COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS."

MILITARY SERVICES.

To furnish a full statement of the military services which the citizens of this town rendered during the Revolutionary war is not, perhaps, possible at this day. But some general accounts may be collected which will afford a tolerable view of their services.

It appears from the following anecdote that they were not slow in acting up to the resolutions which they had adopted.

In December, 1774, the Committee of Safety gave notice that one Nathan Aldis, a tory, who lived in Franklin, Mass., was selling British goods contrary to the resolutions of the General Court. Colonel John Daggett, of this town, a determined and resolute patriot, immediately issued orders to the several companies of the town to furnish a certain number of men, who being collected, marched, in a bitter cold night, for the place of Aldis' residence, to put a stop to his business. They were joined on the way by volunteers from the neighboring towns. They arrived late at night, and surrounding his house ordered him out. He and his associates who had assembled to defend him at first attempted to resist with arms, threatening to fire upon them from the windows and, assuming a tone of confidence, ordered them to depart. Upon this the besiegers were directed to point their guns towards the house. Finding that his opponents were in earnest and that threats could

not intimidate them, Aldis at last came out. He was ordered *to pull off his hat*, while in the presence of the people's soldiers. Here, before the whole company, he was compelled to enter into an engagement not to "vend any more British goods during the present unhappy controversy between the King and his colonies." The prisoner was then released. The next morning he fled to Boston, and was never after known in these parts.

The captains from this town who were engaged in this adventure were Capt. S. Richardson, of the Northeast Company; Capt. Moses Wilmarth, Southeast Company; Capt. Jacob Ide, Southwest Company; and Capt. Jonathan Stanley, Northwest Company.

From a "return of the several Militia Company's in the Fourth Regiment in the County of Bristol," it appears that John Daggett was Colonel; Ephraim Lane, Lieut. Colonel; Isaac Dean, First Major; and Elkanah Clapp, Second Major. There were in Captain Ide's company, "fifty-three, including officers; forty-seven equipped according to law." In Captain Richardson's minute-company, "sixty-one including officers; fifty-eight of which are equipped according to law; twenty with bayonets" (of the fifty-eight). In Captain Stanley's company, "fifty-five including officers; whereof forty-seven are equipped according to law." In Captain Wilmarth's minute-company, "fifty-six, whereof forty-eight are equipped according to law," making a total of two hundred and twenty-five men from this town, besides the commander. The other captains in the regiment were Benjamin Mory, Abial Clapp, Job Hodges, Jabez Ellis,[1] and William Stone. These captains and their companies were from Mansfield, Norton, and Easton. There were also "four companies of minute-men, including officers; two hundred and twelve: but not yet incorporated into a regiment." The names of the captains of these companies are not given, but they seem to have been for a time in Colonel Daggett's regiment, or under his command.

The "return" closes as follows: —

The number of training soldiers in the said regiment is six hundred and twenty-four; two companies of which I have not as yet been able to obtain the returns of their reviewing, but may soon be returned.

To the Honorable Provincial Congress at Concord assembled.

from your
humble servant, John Daggett, Col. of said regiment.

ASSONETT EXPEDITION.

Information having been received from the vigilant Committees of Safety that the British had made a deposit of arms and ammunition at Assonett village — Freetown — for the use of the loyalists, Colonel Daggett, of this town, on the 9th of April, 1775, undertook an expedition for the purpose of seizing these arms and breaking up the combination which had been formed to favor the royal cause. He was accompanied by the several companies from this town, with their captains, — as before named, except Elisha May in the room of Jonathan Stanley, — and by some of the militia from Rehoboth and other towns. How many others were concerned in the adventure is not known.

They discovered forty stands of arms and equipments in the possession of the tories, together with a large quantity of ammunition, the whole of which

[1] Captain Ellis was doubtless from this town also.

was taken by the patriots. All who were suspected of favoring the British interest were required to swear not to bear arms against their country. Nine stanch tories, who refused to take the oath of fidelity to the colonies, were made prisoners and put under the charge of the company from East Attleborough, and forthwith marched to Taunton. Here their captors threatened to convey them to Sullivan's mines in Connecticut if they would not comply. To avoid this alternative they at last submitted and took the oath of allegiance to their country. They were then dismissed.

This victory, it is said, was almost entirely bloodless. One stubborn tory who refused to remove his hat out of respect to a liberty pole had it knocked off by the butt end of some soldier's musket, and a gash cut in his head.

This expedition deserves commemoration from the circumstance of its having been accomplished previous to the commencement of open hostilities in any other part of the country. It preceded, a few days, the first scene in the great drama which opened on the plains of Lexington. It was appearing in arms, though on a comparatively small scale, against the royal government. The patriots expected resistance, and were prepared with sufficient force to meet it.

One writer says: "Reports at the time estimated the number of patriots who then assembled at Assonett as two thousand men, but that was probably an overestimate, and yet, whether overestimated or not, the stubborn fact remains that at Assonett village in Freetown, instead of Lexington, the great drama of the American Revolution was opened. Because Assonett has suffered wrong in this matter for a hundred and ten years, is no reason that this wrong shall continue to be done forever, nor will it, for truth is so mighty that it will ultimately prevail." It is a matter in which we may justly take great pride — that our town took so prominent a part in this occurrence.

The company of minute-men, sixty in number, under the command of Captain Jabez Ellis, — Enoch Robinson, lieutenant, — on the day of the battle of Lexington received orders to march instantly to Roxbury.

"We set out at night,[1] stopped a short time at Maxcy's, now Hatch's tavern, then went directly to Dedham, where we found two tables by the roadside generously provided with food for the soldiers who might pass that way, thus arranged to prevent any unnecessary delay. We snatched a hasty breakfast and marched on, reached Roxbury about daylight, and were then marched round and round Roxbury meetinghouse, to make as much show of numbers as possible in view of the British. Our company remained there seven or eight days, and then were permitted to return home."

Of one of these soldiers an anecdote was current among the survivors of that day for many years. One Henry Richardson, of this town, a bold and honest but heedless fellow, on his way to Roxbury swore he would have one

[1] The circumstances are given as related to the author by one of the survivors.

of the red-coats before he went back. On his arrival at headquarters, the moment he had opportunity he charged his long musket and, not thinking with Falstaff that "discretion is the better part of valor," coolly marched down in front of our lower guard and taking deliberate aim at the opposite British sentinel discharged his musket and badly wounded him, as his companions were seen to lead him off the ground and his place was supplied by another. Much to his astonishment, our hero was immediately arrested (for doing, as he thought, so good a service) and put under guard, but on the representations of his friends was soon after discharged without further punishment, in consideration of his *good intentions*. On meeting afterwards one of his townsmen, he exclaimed with exultation: "There, I told you I 'd have one of them 'ere British rascals!"

The same company went down to Roxbury the day of Bunker Hill battle and stayed about a fortnight. "While there a small party of us," said one of them, "went round to the Cambridge side to look at the British, but soon the captain of a fort called out to us, that we had better not go in company, for the enemy would see us and fire at us; and sure enough, in a minute or two, a cannon ball came whizzing along close by us, and soon after, they sent us a bomb."

May 1, 1775. A company of sixty-four men enlisted for eight months under Captain Caleb Richardson in the Massachusetts line, so called, and were stationed at Roxbury.

July, 1776. Another company, principally from this town, enlisted for five months in the recruits called the "New Levies," under Captain Caleb Richardson and Stephen Richardson (lieutenant), — both of Attleborough, — in the regiment of Colonel Cary, of Middleborough, under Brigadier-General Fellowes, and did duty in and about New York, and were at the disastrous retreat from Long Island, etc. Captain Moses Wilmarth, though he had served as a captain at home, yet from a spirit of patriotism entered the service as a private soldier in the expedition to New York. He was afterwards promoted and continued, much attached to the service, during the war. Joel Read,[1] of this town, was wounded at New York. Some of the other members of this company were from the neighboring towns.

September, 1776. Another company was raised — part from Attleborough and part from Norton — under Captain Elisha May, of this town, in the regiment of Colonel Thomas Carpenter, of Rehoboth, and arrived at White Plains before the battle.

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[1] He was a musical composer, published three "Singing Books," and was the author of several tunes which still live in our churches. His works were published in connection with his brother, Daniel N. Warren. See in *Read Genealogy*, p. 252, sketch of his nephew Ezra, who, in connection with Alden Bradford, had the honor of first publishing the immortal works of Walter Scott, "the great Wizard of the North," this side of the Atlantic. He was living in 1834 when the author's first "Sketch" was published.

In October, 1777, a whole company from this town marched to Rhode Island under Captain Stephen Richardson and served one month in Spencer's "Secret Expedition," so called.

Several men from this town were drafted in the expedition against Ticonderoga in 1776, who served also at Saratoga.

Some of our soldiers enlisted for three years, and others during the war.

The above accounts do not include the many individual enlistments into the Continental army from this town during the war.

MILITIA. — RHODE ISLAND.

The militia in this town and the vicinity were subject to frequent drafts of men (more or less) from December, 1776, until after the evacuation of Rhode Island. Drafts were made in January, February, March, May, June, July, and August, 1777, and at many other times. The men were stationed the most of the time at Howland's Ferry (Tiverton) and at Warwick.

The British took possession of Rhode Island in December, 1776, and kept the surrounding country in a continual state of alarm. They occupied it above two years.

General Sullivan during his expedition to Rhode Island requested the government of Massachusetts to send him a reinforcement in consequence of the French forces having abandoned him. In compliance with this request the following orders were issued by the Council of this State, directing Colonel Daggett of the Fourth Regiment (including then, as still in 1834, Attleborough, Mansfield, Norton, and Easton) to take charge of the detachment:

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY.
COUNCIL CHAMBER, AUG. 18TH, 1778.

Whereas, Major General Sullivan has represented to this Board that by reason of the absence of the French troops, which he expected would co-operate with him, he is in pressing need of reinforcements, therefore,

Ordered, that the following colonels be and hereby are directed to detach from their respective regiments the several numbers of men hereafter mentioned, and form them into companies of sixty-eight men each, including one captain, two subalterns, four sergeants, four corporals, one drummer, and one fifer, and see that they be equipped, armed, and accoutred as the law directs, and order them to march immediately to the island of Rhode Island, and there to do duty during the campaign on said island, — viz: From Col. Hawes' regiment, one hundred and fifty men, including officers, and one major; from Col. Carpenter's regiment one hundred and fifty men, including officers; from Col. Daggett's regiment, one hundred and fifty men, including officers, and one colonel; from Col. Hathaway's regiment, one hundred and fifty men, including officers, and one lieutenant-colonel; from Col. Sproat's regiment, one hundred and fifty men, including officers; from Col. Williams' regiment, one hundred and fifty men, including officers.

And make return to the Council without loss of time.

A true copy.

Attest: John Avery, Dy. Sec'y.

In obedience to these orders a regiment consisting of nine hundred men was formed out of the several regiments above named, which repaired to

Rhode Island, and served under the command of Colonel Daggett, of this town, during the remainder of the campaign. The company furnished by this town as its quota under this levy was commanded by Captain Caleb Richardson. It was on the island at the time of the battle, and was partially engaged in it. Two men from this town who had belonged to the Continental army were killed in that action; namely, Larned Hall and one John Dwyer (or Dyer), formerly of Rehoboth.

Colonel Daggett also commanded the regiment (of which this town furnished a portion) from Bristol county in Spencer's expedition. This regiment was supplied by alternate drafts from the companies in the northerly and middle parts of the county.

During the occupation of the island by the British, as before observed, the militia from all the towns in the vicinity were frequently called upon to defend the shore, as constant apprehensions were entertained that the enemy would attempt to land. Attempts were indeed often made, but as often failed. Orders would sometimes come for all the militia to appear at some place near the island. All hands would accordingly muster (whether by night or day), and make all haste for the scene of parade. They were sometimes thus detained a week, three weeks, and even six weeks at a time. On the appearance of a sufficient force the enemy would for the time relinquish their design, and the greater part of the militia obtain leave to go home. But sometimes before they arrived home orders would come for their immediate return. The yeomanry were thus often obliged to leave the plow in the furrow, the mown hay untouched, and the harvest rotting in the field.

ANECDOTE OF FAYETTE.

While Sullivan was retreating from the island, Fayette, who brought up the rear, just as he was leaving the field espied a pickaxe belonging to the American army which had been accidentally left on the ground. He instantly went back, dismounted, and picked it up, exclaiming in broken English as he rode off with it on his shoulder, "They sha'n't have de pickaxe!"[1]

The cannonade, which was heavy, between the two armies, was distinctly heard and felt in this town, and produced extreme anxiety in every family.

The time of Bunker Hill battle was likewise a day of solemn feeling and fearful expectation. The cannonade was distinctly heard at this distance — thirty-five miles — and the occasion of it was fully recognized. It was so heavy as to shake the windows in the houses and the plates upon the shelves. The earth trembled as in the heaviest thunder. The town was almost deserted by all able to bear arms. Women were in tears for the fate of fathers, husbands, and brothers who had gone to the scene of action.

From the preceding account of the civil transactions and the military

[1] This anecdote was told the author by Dr. Billings, surgeon in the American army.

services of this town, it appears satisfactorily that our citizens furnished their full proportion to the ranks of the patriot army and did their duty faithfully in the day of trial.

In reviewing the proceedings in that contest which agitated the country previous to the commencement of the Revolution, one thing struck me as worthy of remark (though not particularly noticed by historians): that the citizens of this State generally, the people as a body, felt a deeper interest, took a more active part, and exerted a more direct influence in the transactions of the day, than the *people* of any other State. The whole mass of our citizens seemed to be acting in concert, animated with one spirit and in pursuit of one object. Other States were indeed as zealously engaged in the great work, but it was rather through the legislature or the government than by the direct influence of the people. But the citizens of this State entrusted it not to a few leaders or to any body of men to vindicate their violated rights; they were willing to do their part and to bear the burden themselves. Every town and almost every individual felt it a duty to put forth an effort in the cause.

The following are the names of the men from this town who served in the army during the Revolution. They are taken from the "Muster Rolls" and "Pay Rolls of the Revolution," in the Secretary's Library in the State House, Boston, and the lists comprise probably *all* who served.[1]

Muster Roll[2] for the company called on account of the alarm in April, 1775.

Moses Wilmarth, Captain,
Nathaniel Bishop, 1st. Lt.
Caleb Richardson, 2d. Lt.
Elijah Barrows, } Ser.
Thomas Sweet, } Ser.
Zephaniah Bishop, } Ser.
Obadiah Carpenter, } Ser.
Daniel Wilmarth, } Cor.
Gideon Sweet, } Cor.
Abial Dunham, Drummer,
Jediah Richardson, Fifer,
Comfort Moore,
Nath[l] Claflin,
Confider Brown,
Noah Cooper,
Thomas Cooper,
Daniel Claflin,
John Foster,
Joseph French,
Jonathan Follet,
Achos ? Hunt,
Enoch Hunt,
Elijah Jones,
Abel Martin,
Isaac Perry, (Parey)
Eben[r] Robinson,
Arunah Shepardson,
Wm. Starkey,
John Tyler, Jun.
Ephraim Tripp,
John Tyler,
Robert Titus,
Benoni Wilmarth,
Abisha Washborn,
Moses Pike (Piek),
Daniel Tiffany,
Peter Thacher.

9th Company in 4th Regiment, Col. John Daggett.

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[1] The editor deemed it best to place these names after the author's account of the war — leaving that almost entirely as he had previously prepared it — instead of attempting to give the companies, or parts of companies, directly after the references to their services as made by him.

[2] See *Mus. Rolls of Rev.*, vol. 13, p. 189.

Caleb Richardson's Co.[1] in Col. Timothy Walker's Reg. April 24th to Aug. 1775 in service.

Caleb Richardson, Captain,
Enoch Robinson, Lieut.
Solomon Standly, Ensign,
John Robinson, } Ser.
Lemuel Whiting, }
Daniel Richardson, }
John Tyler, }
Joel Read, } Cor.
Joseph Sterns, }
Gideon Sweet, }
Eliphaz Healy, }
Stephen Richardson, Drummer,
Caleb Richardson, Fifer,
Henry Alexander,
Preserved Alger,
David Alverson,
Gideon Bishop,
Comfort Bishop,
Jonathan Blackinton,
Abial Brown,
Joseph Cummings,
John Daggett,
John Drown,
Elijah Daggett,
Abner Daggett,
Samuel Draper,
Jeremiah Everet,
Lemuel Everet,
Penuel Everet,
Ebenr Fuller,
Thomas Freeman,
Zebulon Freeman,
James Freeman,
Joseph Fuller,
Rufus Gary,
Daniel Huse,
Larned Hall,
Enoch Hunt,
Henry Joslin,
Amos Jilson,
Amaziah Jilson,
John Ide,
Wm. Luce,
Samuel Luscomb,
Comfort Martin,
George Neal,
Hezekiah Peck,
Benj. Richardson,
Benj. Stanley,
Nathaniel Sweet,
John Tiffany,
Noah Tiffany,
Peter Thacher,
James Tripp,
Ephraim Tripp,
Thomas Tiffany,
Ebenr Wilmarth,
Moses Walcot,
Wm. Woodcock,
Jonathan Woodcock,
Wm. Pilse,
Zephaniah Rose.

Men from town in Capt. Moses Knap's Co.[2] Col. Joseph Read's Reg. in service from Apr. 27th, to Aug. 1775.

Benj. Capron, 2d. Lieut.
Samuel Tiffany, } Cor.
Seth Richardson, }
Elias Bolkcom,
David Bolkcom,
Daniel Bolkcom,
Aaron Cutting,
Elijah Fisher,
Thomas Norton,
John Stearns, (Searns)
Samuel Woodcock.

In Capt. James Perry's Co.[3] in service Oct. 6, 1775.

Allines Claflin,
Aruna Shepardson,
Benj. Read,
John Sweet.

The following company of minute-men were called out Jan. 5th, 1776, and marched thirty-five miles.

Jabez Ellis, Capt.
Samuel Robinson, 1st. Lt.
Elisha May, 1st. Lt.
Enoch Robinson, 2d. Lt.
Lemuel Everitt,
(illeg.) Fuller,
,, Fuller,
,, Fuller,

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[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 16, p. 12. [2] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 56, p. 113, and vol. 15, p. 47. [3] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 56, p. 192.

Geo. Robinson, 2d. Lt.
Benj. Tingley, } Ser.
Daniel Daggett, }
Lemuel Whiting, }
Elisha Daggett, }
Aaron Barrows, } Cor.
Jeze (Jesse?) Ingraham, }
Eliphalet Holmes, }
Joseph Sterns, }
Sam. Tingley, Drummer,
Henry Alexander,
John Alexander,
Preserved Alger,
Josiah Allen,
Phillip Allen,
Simeon Bates,
Sam. Bloise? (al. illeg.)
Stephen Barrows? (illeg.)
Sam. Blackinton,
Reuben Bates,
Nathan Bishop,
Oliver Blackinton,
Joseph Cummings,
Stephen Claflin? (illeg.)
Amos Carpenter,
Reuben Carpenter,
Ezekiel Carpenter,
(illeg.) Carpenter,
Ebenr Draper,
Ichabod Daggett,
(illeg.) Ellis,
John Sweet,
Wm. Sweetland,
Solomon Stanley,
Gideon Stanley,
Samuel Stanley,
Bowen Sweetland,
Robert Swan,
Ebenr Tyler,
Nathan Tingley,
Arunah Tingley,
Jabez Gay,
Joseph Guild,
(illeg.) Robinson,
(entire name illeg.)
Nathan Tyler,
David Hutchins,
Daniel Hews,
Resolved Healey,
Eliphaz Healey,
Jacob Ide,
Comfort Ingraham,
Amos Ide,
Timothy Ide,
Amaziah Jillson,
Wm. Lewis,
Hezekiah Lane
Samuel Liscome,
Benj. Maxcy,
Eben Maxcy,
Samuel Newell,
Josiah Pidge,
David Pidge,
Wm. Pike,
Thomas Quindley,
David Read,
Hervey Richardson,
David Richardson,
Ezekiel Robinson,
Joel Read,
Jonathan Read,
Samuel Slack,
Eben Tiffany,
Nathaniel Woodcock,
Samuel Whiting,
David Whiting,
Moses Walcot,
Phineas Claflin,
Jabez Pitcher,
Abner Daggett,
Eliphaz Day,
Elijah Daggett,

John Draper.

The following is Capt. Stephen Richardson's company of minute-men. At what special times they served the muster roll does not show.

Stephen Richardson, Capt.
Alexander Foster, Lieut.
Michel Sweet, Ensign,
Sheribiah Cobb, } Ser.
Elijah Capron, }
Abiathar Richardson, }
David Woodcock, }
George Hull,
Thomas Horton,
John Richardson,
Thomas Richardson,
Benj. Richardson,
Seth Richardson,
Zephaniah Rose,

[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 12, p. 87.

John Robinson, Cor.
Joseph Foster, Cor.
Daniel Richardson, Cor.
Thomas Wilmarth, Cor.
Nathaniel Robinson, Drummer,
Elijah Bolkcom, Fifer,
Wm. Bolkcom,
Benj. Capron,
John Daggett, Jr.
Peter Fisher,
David Foster,
Rufus Gavy,
Comfort Martin,
Benj. Starkey,
Nathaniel Sweet,
Hoseah Tiffany,
John Tiffany
Noah Tiffany
Samuel Tiffany,
John Woodcock,
Ebenr Wilmarth,
Eliphalet Wilmarth,
Amos Wilmarth,
John Wilkinson,
Jonathan Woodcock,
Zachariah White.[1]

Muster roll of Capt. Richardson's Co.[2] that marched into the State of Rhode Island — part of the militia of Attleborough — "to hold the line till men could be raised for two months for that purpose." It was completed Apr. 21st, 1777, and continued in service until May 25th, including time to travel home at twenty miles per day. The private's pay was £1 13s. 4d. each.

Stephen Richardson, Capt.
Enoch Robinson, Lieut.
Benj. Tingley, Lieut.
Wm. Sweetland, Ser.
Amos Ide, Ser.
Noah Tiffany, Ser.
Isaac Perry, Ser.
Elijah Daggett, Cor.
Daniel Hews, Cor.
Hosea Tiffany, Cor.
Thomas French, Cor.
Stephen Fuller, Drummer,
Benj. Willmarth, Fifer,
David Bolkcom,
Lamech Blanding,
Comfort Bates,
Jonathan Blackinton,
Othniel Blackinton,
Joseph Capron,
Wm. Carpenter,
David Cooper,
Daviny ? Daggett,
Solomon Dunham,
John Draper,
Joel Ellis,
Penuel Everit,
Levy Everit,
Wm. Tiffany,
Thos. French, Jr.
William Freeman,
Jabez Gay,
Isaac Ide,
Oliver Jillson,
Isaac Jackson,
Hezekiah Lane,
Hezekiah Peck,
Jesse Richards,
Noah Robinson,
Benj. Read,
Daniel Read,
Gideon Stanley,
George Starkey,
Bowin Sweetland,
Abel Titus,
Zelotis Tyler,
Ebenr Tyler,
Ebenr Tyler, Jr.
Hezekiah Tiffany,
Benj. Tripp,
James Tripp,
James Orn,
Silas Wood,
Jonathan Willmarth,
Amos Willmarth,
Benj. Woodcock.

List of Capt. Caleb Richardson's Co. in Col. Danforth's. Reg. for the bounty granted by the General Court June 27th, 1777, — the bounty being apparently £3 a month.

Noah Tiffany,
Lawrence M. South,
Samuel Munro,
Noah Robinson,
Nehemiah Briggs,
Abiah Fuller,
John Caswell,
John Emerson,

[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 12, p. 69. [2] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 3, ps. 89 and 92.

Wm. Hoskins,
Laraih ? Blanding,
(illeg.) Linkon,
David Fuller,
Simeon Crossman,
John M. South,
Abel Pain,
Charles Findly,
Elisha Williams,
Richard Clark,
Theophilus Clark,
Benj. Medberry,
Jacob Linkon,
Lewis M. South,
Matthew Macomber,
Thomas Andrews,
Ebenr Read,
Abel Medberry,
Aaron Goff,
Abel Goff,
Samuel Boen,
Hezekiah Tiffany,
Jacob Cummins,
Elisha Hall,
Benj. Cummins,
Israel Jackson,
Caleb Richardson, Jr.
Abial Tripp,
Zelotus Tyler,
Samuel Freeman,
Boen Sweetland,
Paul Pratt,
Silvester Linkon,
Samuel Hoskins,
Preserved Hoskins.

A list of the company[1] that marched from this town on a secret expedition under the command of Col. Geo. Williams, from Sept. 25th, to Oct 29th, 1777, one month and six days, including two days for return home. Captain's name not given.

Joel Read, } Ser.
Hosea Tiffany, }
Eliphaz Heley, }
Arunah Shepardson, }
Ebenr Dunham, Drummer,
Israel Bates,
Simon Barrows,
Comfort Barrows,
Thomas Barden,
Elias Bolkcom,
Ebenezer Bacon,
Oliver Blackinton,
Comfort Bates,
Daniel Blanding,
Jesse Briggs,
William Barrows,
Joseph Cushman,
Joseph Capron,
Daniel Claflin,
Zebelon Cutting,
David Cooper,
Loammi Day,
Wm. Carpenter,
Joab Daggett,
Nathaniel Drown,
Joseph Daggett,
Daviny Daggett,
Ephraim Dean,
Solomon Dunham,
Joel Ellis,
Noah Fuller,

Daniel Hews, } Cor.
Thomas Tiffany, }
Herbert Mann, }
Thomas French, }
Benj. Wilmarth, Fifer,
Nathaniel Jillson,
Daniel Lane,
Comfort Moore,
Job Martin,
James Orn,
David Pidge,
Jabez Pitcher,
Caleb Parm(en)ter,
Isaac Perry,
Wm. Pulling,
Daniel Read,
Ephraim Read,
Thomas Richardson,
Seth Richardson,
Zephaniah Rose,
Michel Riley,
Henry Richardson,
Jonathan Read,
Joseph Stearns,
Jeremiah Scott,
Amos Starkey,
Thomas Starkey,
Daniel Stanley,
Samuel Stanley,
Clark Sweetland,
Stephen Sweetland,

[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 91.

Samuel Fuller,
Abial Fisher,
Ebenr Fuller,
Jonathan Fuller,
Thomas French, Jr.
Ebenezer Guild,
Amos Ide,
George Ide,
Isaac Ide,
Elijah Jones,
Oliver Jillson,
Zebadiah Sweet,
John Tiffany,
Ephraim Tripp,
Benj. Tripp,
Philip Thare, (Thayer?)
Abisha Town,
Ebenezer Tyler,
Elijah Wellman,
Eliphlet Wilmarth,
Benj. Woodcock,
Jesse Ide,

Daniel Tiffany.

Capt. Sam. Robinson's company[1] of militia raised for twenty-one days, for duty in Col. Wade's regiment, from July 21st, 1778. Other members of this company were from adjoining towns.

Sam. Robinson, Capt.
Wm. Sweetland, Ser.
Jacob Frieze, } Cor.
Daniel Claflin, } Cor.
William Thomas, } Cor.
Benj. Wilmarth, Fifer,
Philip Allen,
Othniel Blackinton,
David Bolkcom,
Benj. Barrows,
Nathaniel Bowen,
William Carpenter, 2d.
Asa Daggett,
Darius Daggett,
Abial Dunham,
Alex. Foster,
Lumy Foster,
Abial Freeman,
William Foster,
Ebenr Guild,
John Gooding,
George Ide,
Edward Richards,
Noah Robinson,
Obed Robinson,
Joel Read,
John Sweetland,
Bowen Sweetland,
Ebenr Tyler,
Jonathan Wilmarth,
Stephen Wilmarth,
Eben,r Wellman,

Machael Sweet.

Capt. Alex. Foster's company,[2] in Col. Thomas Carpenter's regiment from the Mass. Bay, in the campaign at Rhode Island, from July 27th to Aug. 12th, 1778, including time to return home. Service for seventeen days. "Due for the time of service and travel, to each private, £2. 16s. 8d." The Courts provided additional wages £5 per month.

Alex. Foster, Capt.
William Swetland, Lieut.
Daniel Richardson, Lieut.
Thomas Sweet, } Ser.
David Woodcock, } Ser.
Eliphalet Holmes, } Ser.
Levi Stanley, Drummer,
Ephraim Allen,
Christopher Bowing,
Simon Barrows,
Jacob Bates,
Benjamin Blackington,
Noah Blanding,
Solomon Bates,
William Carpenter,
Joseph Foster, } Cor.
Daniel Willmarth, } Cor.
Daniel Hews, } Cor.
Samuel Guild, } Cor.
George Hely, Fifer,
Phillip Allen, Private,
Philbrook Barrows,
Ichabod Ide,
Levi Gilson,
Levi Ide,
Joel Metcalf,
Herbert Mann,
Daniel Martin,
James Orne,
Henry Peck,

[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 106. [2] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 2, p. 21.

Nehemiah Clafland,
Benjn Capron,
Joseph Capron,
David Cummings,
Joab Daggett,
John Draper,
Amos Daggett,
Joel Ellis,
David Fisher,
Joseph Fuller,
Thomas French,
Ebenr Guild,
Samuel Holmes,
Israel Hatch,
George Ide,
Isaac Ide,
Isaac Perry,
Daniel Read,
Henry Sweet,
John Streeter,
James Sweetland,
Thomas Starkey,
Samuel Stanley,
John Sprague,
Ebenr Swan,
David Smith,
Joseph Sterns,
Zelotas Tyler,
Othniel Tyler,
Peter Thacher,
Robert Titus,
Eliphalet Wilmarth,

Jonathan Woodcock.

Capt. Sam. Robinson's Co.[1] in Col. Josiah Whitney's Reg. raised for six weeks, from July 29th, 1778. Beyond wages they were to receive a day's pay for every twenty miles on the return home. There were doubtless men in this company from surrounding towns.

Sam. Robinson, Capt.
David Huchins (Hoskins), Ser.
Hosea Tiffany, Ser.
Comfort Bates,
Asa Dean,
Jesse Ide,
Benj. Stanley,
Nathan Richards,
Enoch Robinson, Lieut.
Jabez Gay, Cor.
David Bolkcom,
Joseph Daggett,
Abisha Town,
Samuel Tiffany,
Enoch Hunt,
Jonathan Woodcock,

John Fisher.

Capt. Elisha May's Co.[2] in Col. John Daggett's Reg. from Aug. 23rd, 1778, to Sept. 2d, following, and two days to return home. Discharged Sept. 2d, 1778. Amount of private's wages, £2 per month, captain's, £12.

Elisha May, Capt.
Alex. Foster, Lieut.
Benj. Maxcy, Lieut.
Zephaniah Bishop, Stephen Draper, Andrew Bourn, Thomas Wilmarth, } Ser.
Ephraim Hall, Cor.
Peter Read,
Wm. Barrows,
Peter Blackington,
Joseph Cushman,
Oliver Whittaker,
Edmond Carpenter,
James Cobb,
Loammi Day,
Daniel Daggett,
Joel Fisher,
Solomon Stanley,
John Goding,
Hezekiah Round,
Ebenezer Robinson,
Benj. Richardson,
Amos Sweet,
John Tyler,
Ephraim Allen,

William Stanley.

Soldiers from this town in Capt. Joseph Franklin's Co.[3] in Col. Nathan Tyler's Reg. stationed at Rhode Island for the four months, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., 1779. The pay of these men for Dec. seems to have been £10. 13s. 4d. less than £2 per man. They were discharged Dec. 31st.

William Foster, Drummer,
Thomas Barden,
Abial Dunham,
Seth Capron, Fifer,
Oliver Gillson,
John Pullin.

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[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 107. [2] See *Pay Rolls*, vol. 4, ps. 207, 208. [3] See *Pay Rolls*, vol. 4, ps. 51, 53, 54.

Capt. Samuel Robinson's Co.,[1] Col. Isaac Deane's Reg., that marched on the alarm, to Tiverton, R. I., on the morning of July 31st, 1780.

Samuel Robinson, Capt.
Ebenr Tyler, Lieut.
Eliphaz Day, Dit.
Peter Read, Clerk.
Jeremiah Ingraham, } Ser.
Andrew Bourn, }
Noah Morse, }
Jacob Ide, }
Amos Ide, } Cor.
David Pidge, }
Daniel Lane, }
Samuel Tingley, }
Naaman Bishop,
Benj. Barrows,
James Bates,
Benaih Barrows,
Reuben Bates,
Abraham Cummins,
Amos Carpenter,
Ezekiel Carpenter,
Phinehas Clafien,
Loammi Day,
Abial Fuller,
Ebenr Fuller,
Wm. Freeman,
Darias Fuller,
Gilbert Grant,
Elisha Hall,
Ebenr Hutchins,
Amos Humphrey,
John Ide,
Daniel Gilson,
Levi Gilson,
Samuel Liscomb,
Joseph B. Laland,
Samuel Read,
Ephraim Read,
William Read,
John Sweeting,
Nathan Tingley,
Simeon Titus,
Ebenr Tiffany,
Walter Tyler,
Samuel Tyler,
Elisha Welman,
John Welman,
Thomas Witherton,
Abial Brown,
Jupiter Free,
Joseph Fuller,
Oliver Carpenter,
Samuel Blackinton,
Wm. Everitt.

Members of a company[2] raised in town in July, 1780, for six months.

Wm. Bradford,
Timothy Freeman,
Levi Blackinton,
Levi Ide,
Silas Richardson,
Penuel Everitt,
Eliphalet Gay,
Abial Freeman,
Otis Robinson,
Josiah Bacon,
David Robinson,
Levi Chaffee,
Obed Robinson.
John Pullin,
Benj. Sweetland,
Phillip Allen,
Wm. Newell,
Peter Blackinton,
William Tyler,
Hezekiah Tiffany,
Elijah Fisher,
Daniel Hewes,
Aaron Cutting,
Joseph Cushman,
Reuben Ide,
Nathan Hatch,
Abial Tripp,
Levi Maxcy,
Jonathan Wilmarth,
Thomas French,
Joseph Bishop,
David Dunnels.

The following is the fourth time that Samuel Robinson served as captain during the war, in response to the many special calls for troops in this vicinity. He was the only one from the town who served in that capacity

[1] See *Pay Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 110. [2] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 4, p. 11.

so many times. Three — Moses Wilmarth, Caleb Richardson, and Stephen Richardson — each served twice, and the other named captains once.

Capt. Sam. Robinson's Co.[1] in Col. Isaac Deane's Reg. for service in R. I. in 1781. Marched March 6th, discharged March 14th, "in the evening." Privates received 17s. 8d. each.

Samuel Robinson, Capt.
Wm. Tiffany, Hezekiah Tiffany, Wm. Bradford, David Robinson, } Ser.
Obed Robinson, Drummer,
Welcome Capron, Private,
Edmond Carpenter,
Otis Capron,
Phineas Clafen,
Calvin Freeman,
Ebenr Read,
Wm. Blackinton,
Levi Blackinton,
Benj. Daggett,
Benj. Barrows,
Ebenr Hutchins,
John Guild,
Leonard Daggett,

Daniel Richardson, Lt.
Abial Tripp, Otis Robinson, Wm. Tyler, Solomon Dunham, } Cor.
Seth Capron, Fifer,
Ephraim Gay,
Abiah Pitcher,
Ebenr Tiffany,
William George,
James Bates,
Thomas Witherton,
Joel Robinson,
Beniah Barrows,
William May,
Josiah Bacon,
Walter Tyler,
James Cutting,
Daniel Daggett,
Samuel Daggett.

Another company, under Capt. Enoch Robinson,[2] in Col. Isaac Deane's regiment, seems to have marched on the alarm to Tiverton. They had ten days service, from July 31st, to Aug. 8th, 1780. Privates' pay about 5s. per day.

Enoch Robinson, Capt.
Moses Walcot, Benj. Sweetland, Joseph Guild, } Ser.
Roial (Royal?) Stanley, Drummer,
Josiah Allen,
George Blackinton,
Oliver Blackinton,
Zerial ? Bates,
John Demon,
Ephraim Dean,
Wm. Freeman,
Eliphalet Holmes,
Stephen Fuller,
Ebenezer Guild,
William Gay,
Nathan Tucker,
Abisha Town,
Penticost Walcot,
David Smith,

Daniel Daggett, Lieut.
Ebenr Bacon, Jesse Richards, Stephen Draper, } Cor.
Benj. Ide,
John Mullin,
William May,
Samuel Newell,
Jeames Orn,
Jacob Perry,
James Pullin,
David Robbins,
Samuel Stanley,
Jesse Stanley,
Stephen Sweetland,
William Sweetland,
David Whiting,
Ichabod Daggett,
Henry Alexander,
Benj. Maxcy,
William Sweetland. (Written twice on list.)

[1] See *Pay Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 103. [2] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 108.

Capt. Moses Wilmarth's Co.[1] who marched on the alarm to R. I. in Col. Isaac Deane's Reg. They seem to have been in service from March to July 31st. or Aug. 7th, 1781.

Moses Wilmarth, Capt.

Zephaniah Bishop, Thomas Sweet, Obadiah Carpenter, Abial Dunham, } Ser.

Elijah Barrows, Clerk.

Noah Brown,
Comfort Bates,
Joseph Barrows,
Thomas Barden,
Noah Blanding,
Solomon Bates,
Stephen Briggs,
Josiah Carpenter,
Josiah Churchel,
Cyrel Carpenter,
Nathaniel Claflin,
Daniel Claflin,
Noah Cooper,
Amos Daggett,
Daniel Daggett,
Ebenezer Dunham,
Aseph Daggett,
Peter Derry,
Ezra French,
Jonathan Follet,

Nathaniel Bishop, Lieut.

Dan. Carpenter, Dan. Wilmarth, Paul Sanford, Aruna Shepardson, } Cor.

Benj. Grover,
Abel Martin,
Job Martin,
Comfort More,
James Linkhorn,
John Pike,
Peter Parey,
Ichabod Parey,
Caleb Parmenter,
Caleb Richardson,
Gideon Sweet,
Wm. Starkey,
Peter Thacher,
Obadiah Thacher,
Robard Titus,
Ebenezer Tyler,
Eliphalet Wilmarth,
Abisha Washbon.
Stephen Wilmarth,
Samuel Willis,
Gershom Wilmarth,
Noah Tiffany.

In a Rehoboth company, under Capt. John Perry, one Comfort Capern, from this town, is put down as "Mate."

In another company from that town, under Capt. Samuel Bliss, is found the name of Comphort Robinson of this town.

In the regiment of Col. Asa Whitcomb, the company of Capt. Hasting, the name of John Sweetland of Attleborough is found.[2]

The following is the only list of the dead found among the records:[3]

Capt. Keth's (Keith?) Co.

David Hutchins,
Joseph French,

Consider Brown,
Reuben Daggett,

Benoni Willmarth,

Simeon Daggett,
Noah Brown.

The last three were probably from some other company, and were either dead or missing.[4]

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[1] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 3, p. 258.

[2] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 56, pa. 136, 138, 145.

[3] See *Mus. Rolls*, vol. 56, p. 190.

[4] I have followed many of the irregularities of spelling found on the above mentioned "Rolls," thinking it may be a matter of curiosity to some people to see the changes some names have undergone, and also the varieties of ways of spelling the same name in which our fathers indulged themselves at that period. These lists comprise all of the *town* enlistments, not individual enlistments of certain citizens elsewhere, in which the town would have no monetary interest. — EDITOR.

CHAPTER VI.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN, CONTINUED. — DIVISION.

THE long war of the Revolution finally came to an end, and for some time we find very little upon the records relating to enlistments, bounties, pay of soldiers, etc.

The following, found on the ancient State Records of the General Court, is of interest to every inhabitant of the Old Bay State: —

"The General Court begun and held at Boston, the 25th day of October 1780, being the first sitting of the General Court of the COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS."

Sept. 4, 1782. It was voted "to alow the constables for the year 1780, for the Counterfit money they took in Colecting the taxes of said town." The town expenses for that year were £300.

Some controversy regarding the ministerial land arose in 1783, and at a meeting held October 8th, it was voted "that it is the town's property." A committee of three was chosen "to take possession of the ministerial Farm." These were Col. John Daggett, Capt. Ebenezer Tyler, and Mr. Levi Maxcy. "Instructed the committee to demand the money the ministerial farm rented for ever since Mr. Weld's, Discease; then Dismist Capt. E. Tyler, by motion made, and proceeded to the choice of an other, and chose Capt. Ebenezer Tiffany in his stead. And then acted on the third article respecting Doctor Mann, keeping a Publick House, and voted all but five in favor of it."

Feb. 9, 1784, it was put to vote whether the town should give extraordinary pay to officers in the Continental army, and passed unanimously in the negative. Among the orders upon the treasury for this year is the following: "Pay to the widow Anne Newell for Bording Mary Fuller Black Child one year to the 18th of November 1784, £5. 4s. and clothing said child, said term, 19s."

In 1785, "Pay Capt. Moses Wilmarth, for taking another of Joseph Woodcock's boys to bring up til he arive to the age of twenty one years, the sum of £6." Board during this year ranged from 1s. 6d. to 6s. — that is from 37 cents to $1.50 — per week. Corresponding board to-day would probably range from $2.00 to $6.00 or $7.00 per week. Another order for 1785, is as follows: "Pay to Abiathar Richardson for moving Kathiranah Gorse to wrentham the sum of 5s. for moving Job horn to mansfield the sum of 2s." In 1786, Caleb Richardson, one of the selectmen, received for two and one half days' "sarvis" as one of a committee, 10s.

March 21, 1786. "Voted that one third of the annual April meetings, be held in the meeting-house in the east precinct for the future."

May 16, 1786. "The town vote to Chuse a committee of five men to Sarve in county convention if the other towns in the county should see fit to meet them in order to find out the Reson that circulating cash is so scarce, and so harde to be got, and the Reson that taxes are laid so heavy upon us." We of the present time can deeply sympathize in these two grievances of our forefathers, for to this day the mystery attending the poor circulation of the former and the real reason for the weight of the latter are still unsolved. The town chose Capt. Alexander Foster, Capt. Caleb Richardson, and Lieut. Nathaniel Bishop this committee, and they were instructed "to act according to the best of their Judgment."

At a town meeting lawfully warned and held Nov. 6th, 1786, it was voted to instruct the representatives at the General Court to endeavor to get a redress of a number of "articles which we look upon to be grievances." These articles were ten in number. One related to the large pay of the "first magistrate of this commonwealth, and other officers of government;" another to the neglect in the settlement of important matters pending between this Commonwealth and Congress, and another upon "the present mode of taxation," claiming that it acted unequally. Article 3d, as one of the grievances to be redressed, reads: "The existence of that Order of men called Lawyers."

Many complaints of taxes are recorded, and frequent abatements also, one entry being made as follows: "To Mr. Abiathar Richardson, Constable. This comes to order you to abate to Remember Ingraham his poll tax in the state and town tax made Jan. 17, 1787, the sum of £1 9s., and his receipt with this order shall discharge you so much with the town treasurer." Signed by the selectmen.

March 20, 1787. "Voted that the powder taken out of the town stock (in 1775) should be Replast." The following amusing entry was found among those for the year 1788: "Ear mark of Peter Thacher is a swallers tail on the top of the right ear, and a slant cross on the upper side of the left ear." Then as if suddenly realizing his blunder, the clerk adds, "Creturs mark."

March 27, 1787, is found the following order on the treasurer: "This comes to order you to pay Doctor Abijah Everet for keeping the town school in the quarter where Caleb Richardson, Jr. lives, half a month, and boarding himself for the year 1786, £1. 8d. More to said Everet for doctoring the town's poor 11s. and his receipt, shall be your discharge for so much." In this same year the selectmen ordered certain sums of money to be paid to widow Bethiah Bishop for the board, etc., of her mother Mercy Woodcock, from a given date "to the day of her Deth." A further sum "for the cost of rum and watchers for her mother in the later part of her sickness," was

16s. "and to David Pidge for digging a grave to bury the widow Mercy Woodcock in the sum of 4s." At this period — from June, 1788, to January, 1789, — six months, — the town paid the sum of £3. 6s. 4d. for some person's board.

March 17, 1789. "Voted to choose a committee to divide the town into twenty quarters for schooling," the committee numbering thirteen. They reported they considered it best to divide into but eight quarters. In this year the town appropriated £200, for the "sole purpose of mending the highways."

In 1790–91 a number of persons were warned to leave the town, for not having obtained permission to reside within its limits. One of these was the Doctor Abijah Everet previously mentioned; another was "Abraham Tuckerman gentelman," another, Ezra Brown, of Rehoboth, "yeoman." Some were called "transient persons," and one Moses Read "yeoman" of Rehoboth, was warned to depart within fifteen days. This town law was enacted at an early date, but in the case of desirable residents non-conformity to its requirements was "winked at," or, more correctly, when respectable people either through ignorance or carelessness neglected to apply to the proper authorities for consent to become residents of the town on first coming here, they were probably permitted to obtain this consent after being formally warned to depart, as many so warned continued to live here. In the case of the shiftless and shifting population, however, the warnings were doubtless carried into effect.

February 25, 1791, the meeting was held in the meetinghouse in the second precinct. "Voted that the selectmen should be a committee to sell the paper money that belongs to the town." This was accomplished presently, for on April 1st the treasurer was ordered to receive the money belonging to the town from this disposal of the Continental money. The amount of the paper money is not stated, but it realized £77. 18s. 4½d. In this year the town is mentioned as in the "District of Bristol, Dukes County, and Nantucket."

Town meetings in the early days were often held at private houses; that for February 23, 1792, being "at the house of Zechariah White."

April 2, 1792. "Voted to give the powder to the souldiers that was delivered out of the town store, to the several Captains of companies for the regimental muster in October last." Among the bills paid by the town this year was one of 8s. for a cord of wood.

May 15, 1792. "Voted that the assessors go separately, and each one in his own district to take in a valuation, and do it after haying." The following is probably the result of the above vote of the town: [1]

[1] The original paper preserved by Jacob Ide, one of these assessors, was placed in the author's hands by a descendant, Mr. Hartford Ide. It is deemed of sufficient interest to give the valuation entire.

A Count of the Valuation Taken and Completed this 7th Day November 1792, by E. Bacon, A. Richardson, J. Ide.

Polls Rateable 16 years Old & upwards to 21 years		81
Polls Rateable 21 years Old & upwards		303
Male Polls not Rateable, not Supported by ye Town		89
Male Polls not Rateable Supported by ye Town		5
Dwelling Houses		215
Barns		165
Amount of Funded Securites at Six per. cent	£385	s10
Ditto at Three per Sent	277	4
Ditto not on Intrest	258	10
all Other Securites	874	16-6
Money on hand	169	10

Acres of Tilage Land	1282	
Bushels of Rie	2666	
Bushels of Oats	472	
Bushels of Corn	9264	
Peas & Beans	111	
Acres of English and upland mowing	1860¼	
Tons of Hay yearly produce of the Same	736¼	
Money at Intrest		£1248

Acres of Fresh meadow	1944	
Tons of Hay yearly produce of the same	1188	
Acres of Pasturing	5288	
Cows the same will keep	1069	
Barrels of Cyder	1503	
Acres of Woodland	4450	
Acres of unimproved Land	1113	
Acres of Land covered with water	215	
Number of Horses 3 years Old & upward	133	
Steers & Cows 3 years Old &c	861	
Oxen 4 years Old &c	311	
Swine 6 months old	375	
Stock & Trade [Stock in trade?]		£850
Common Land	697 (acres)	
High ways	708 (no explanation of fig.)	

	Tilage	E. mowing	F. meadow	pasturing	Woodland	Un. L.	Upl.	Water
No 1	173	159	198	482	262	581	174	21
No 2	249	233	328	657	600	1005	316	43
	422	392	526	1139	862	1586	490	64

392
526
1139
862
1586
490
64
5481

Attleborough, August 13th 1792

Number of Acres the Town of Attleborough Measured when the Town was Surved by the Selectmen, In Order for to take Map &c is 28363 Acres in the whole.

Sept. 4, 1792. "Voted to annex the county tax with ye town tax." In the warrant for a meeting for October this year, an article was inserted to see if the town would vote to provide "hospitals for ye benefit of ye town, or those individuals who would wish to have ye small pox by inoculation." The

article was dismissed. We conjecture the demand for such a hospital could not have been great.

Aug. 4, 1794, a meeting was held at the house of Mr. Ephraim Dean, where a committee consisting of six captains — Ebenezer Tyler, Caleb Richardson, Ebenezer Tiffany, John Richardson, Samuel and Nathaniel Robinson, and Deacon Enoch Robinson — was chosen to see what encouragement the town would give the soldiers. The meeting was adjourned to a later hour of the same day, to give time for the deliberations of this committee. They reported: "That the town give the soldiers such additional compensation as with the Continental pay shall amount to 42s. per month ($7.00, a shilling 16⅔ cents), while in actual service, if they are not called out of this State, nor the State of Rhode Island. But, if called out of the aforesaid States to duty 54s. per month, one half month advance pay when called to march." This report was accepted. "Then voted to give the men 12s. each, if called to muster in Company; money to be paid on Muster Day." On May 6th of this year, Doctor Bezaleel Mann informed the people at town meeting that he had "taken into his house Abraham Babcock a molatto man," who belonged to Westerly, R. I.

1795. Town expenses £170, and £200 for highways. At a town meeting lawfully warned and held on Monday the sixth day of April, 1795, "Then to the mind of the town upon the important subject of paying the Militia in times of peace. — Which votes are as followeth — viz — Not for paying the Militia in time of peace — 138 — In favor of paying the Militia — 7 votes — Then chose a committee to draft a petition to the General Court and lay it before the town at their next town meeting for their approval." The petition is as follows: —

To the Hon^ble^ the Senate and House of Rep. of the Commonwealth of Mass. in General Court assembled, June 1795.

The petition and remonstrance of the inhabitants of the town of Attleboro' in the county of Bristol sheweth that at the last session of the last General Court sundry petitions were presented to your Honors by officers of the Militia from various parts of this Commonwealth, praying for a revising of the Militia laws, and that the Militia in future may be put under pay on training or muster days — that we acknowledge the responsibility of the Militia, and are not unmindful of the many services they have rendered the Government and of the importance of their existence, yet we never have been brought to believe, neither can we believe that the paying of the Militia for mustering in time of peace can be for the interest nor safety of the community, as it must tend to destroy that Militia pride and laudable ambition for which men of that profession have hitherto been so remarkable, It will also in our opinion subvert the order of things in its operation by establishing the Military over the civil, it will render our republic forms of Government *ntegatory* and introduce a standing army to be supported in time of peace and destroy the essence of our freedom. Nor can we help being surprised at the sudden alteration that has taken place only in consequence of a reverse of fortune, for at the beginning of the late glorious Revolution our then patriots made use of the argument against Great Britain, that they had unconstitutionally quartered large bodies of armed troops among us in time of peace, which was then thought subverting the rights and freedom of the people. Besides if there was no danger from such experiment we think it very unjust that those Officers and Soldiers who have previously in rotation voluntarily done their town at a

time when they were called upon much oftener than at present without fee or reward agreeable to the custom that had been in practice time immemorial, that they should now be taxed to pay officers and soldiers for services not one half so burdensome as those they have performed. We have no wish to injure the present Militia nor to detract from their responsibility, but that your Honors would amend the Militia laws agreeable to their wishes so far as may be consistent with the public good. But we think ourselves bound in duty to remonstrate against paying them as officers or Soldiers on training days, and humbly request that such parts of their petition as pray for compensation may be dismissed and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

At a town meeting lawfully warned and held at Attleboro' the sixth day of May 1795, the inhabitants being assembled, the above petition was perfected and read, and the town voted to accept it, and voted that it should be recorded and sent to the General Court.

A true entry, errors excepted.

Jacob Ide. —Town Clerk

Attleboro', May 6th 1795.

June 1, 1795. "Capt. Joel Read for taking a plan of the town in part sum o' £4. 7s. 6d., Jacob Ide for assisting in this work and making boundaries etc. the sum of £2. 9s. 6d. Expenses of Ebenezer Daggett for three days surveying work 17s. 6d." This year one Noah Cole had his entire rate for the previous year abated. It is to be regretted that the reason for this action is not given, as it might be applicable at the present time in similar cases.

Nov. 30th, 1795, in an order upon the treasurer for board for "48 weeks at 1s. 6d. per week," for Thankful Bowen, "for supporting herself" the charge is "12 Dollars." This is the first mention of *dollars* found with one exception,[1] and from this time on for several years there is a mixture of dollars and cents with pounds, shillings, and pence in the town's accounts — the natural result of the establishment of a new standard of money.

For the next twenty-five years there is comparatively little of special interest relating to the history of the town to be found upon the clerk's books.

Article 7, in the warrant for a meeting to be held Sept. 1st, 1812, reads as follows: "To see if the inhabitants of said town will vote to make up to the soldiers lately detached such sums per month as shall appear to be reasonable compensation in case they shall be called into active service."

Sept. 25, 1812. "Then voted to dismiss the 7th. article, and not act upon

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[1] This was in February, 1781, when for some purpose the town were to raise "$3,000 hard money." These must have been Spanish or Mexican dollars, which were in circulation at that time, and which later became the standard of the American dollar, and there was no other until 1794. In 1785 Congress decided that the dollar "should be the unit of money of the United States." The mint was established in 1792, but no dollars were coined until 1794. The coinage was at first irregular, hence the mixture of terms until the circulation became general. In the New Haven Register — July, 1887 — it was said that dollar was the English for thaler, "the first of which was coined about 1486, and corresponds quite closely to our present American silver dollar." Thaler means coming from a valley — *Thal* in German — and the first thaler was coined in a Bohemian valley. Under Charles Vth, the German thaler "became the coin of the world." It was probably introduced into London by North Germans, who would pronounce it as if spelled "dah-ler." By easy transition the English reach dollar.

it." This same matter came up again in 1814, and was again dismissed. These two short records are all that the town books reveal relating to town action during these years of war, and, as is seen, they amount to nothing. Very probably some citizens of the town may have been in active service, but the State archives furnish the names of no contingent of soldiers sent from this town, as a town. We are told also that there was no volunteer service. Two companies were levied from the four militia companies then in existence. One company was sent to New Bedford, and here one of its members was accidentally shot, but the company had no encounters with the enemy. The other company was commanded by Elihu Daggett; Samuel Cushman was its lieutenant, and Chester Bugbee its ensign. This company went to Plymouth, but saw no active service. We may be sure, however, that had occasion offered, its members and those of the other company would have fought with the same courage and determination which have ever characterized Attleborough soldiers.

During this period, or perhaps a little later, taxes were levied by the United States Government on many articles, and there was a specific tax of $2.00 levied on every watch. As may be seen by some old tax bills in the possession of our present town clerk, if a man failed to pay his tax of a dollar or two on some of these articles taxed, the northeast corner of his farm would be set off for sale. In the event of a failure to meet such demands, it became the business of the tax collector — then in our town probably Mr. Jacob Ide — to look up a man's property, and levy thereupon. We are not told the amount of land claimed per dollar, but in subsequent years some of these "corners" were sold in this town, and the process of redeeding, etc., which necessarily ensued, caused great trouble and expense, probably many times the amount of the original taxes.[1]

During the above-mentioned period the State district to which the town belongs underwent several changes. In 1812 it was in the "Bristol and Norfolk District;" two years later "Bristol District;" in 1822 "Bristol and Dukes County," and the following year "Bristol District" alone. Subsequently the districts were numbered (in 1857) and this form of designation is still used, in place of names.

Sept. 19, 1825. At a town meeting "held at the old meeting-house in the west parish," it was voted that the clergy should become members of the school committee. This committee in those days numbered fully three times as many as now. At this meeting it was also voted "that the town grant one hundred and fifty dollars for the support of a singing school the ensuing

[1] Taxes of this nature, — those on personal possessions, such as clothing, jewelry, etc., are still lawful in one of our neighboring States, but, like many other of her "Blue Laws" they are, as they should be, practically overlooked, or rather, they should be theoretically as well as practically abolished, and remembered only as curiosities. A double and continual tax upon jewelry and clothing — as would be the case with imported articles — is certainly unjust in times of peace.

winter." "Chose Jesse Carpenter, John A. Read, Chester Bugbee, Artemas Stanley, Rev. Mr. Williams for a committee to superintend the Singing School." At this same meeting Abijah M. Ide, Jonathan Peck, and Abiathar Richardson, Jr., were chosen "to make a purchase of house and lands for the poor." This is the first mention of a place where the poor should be cared for collectively.

The town expenses at this period seem to have increased rapidly. In 1826 they were $2,500, with $1,500 for highways. In that year cattle, horses, and swine were not permitted to run at large, and never generally after that time.

It required considerable time to find a suitable poor farm, for it was not until Sept. 20th, 1827, that the town voted, "that the town and State poor should be moved to the house purchased for the town for the purpose of a house for them, as soon as may be convenient, and there supported under the direction of the overseers of the poor," and not until this time was the report of the purchasing committee accepted. This farm and house were on Watery Hill. The house was subsequently burned down, and one or two persons lost their lives. The fire was caused by hot ashes which were taken up in a wooden pail.

At the above mentioned meeting of Sept. 20th, 1827, it was voted "that the selectmen shall receive proposals respecting a building for holding town meetings, from individuals if any should be made, and report at an adjournment of this meeting." At a meeting held on the third of the following April (1828), the selectmen, with Noah Claflin and Abijah M. Ide, were chosen "to Draught a plan of a Town house, and also a Cite, and report to next meeting." May 5th following a meeting was held in the vestry of the East meetinghouse, when this committee's report was accepted, and the selectmen were to attend to the building and have it completed "by the first Monday of November next." The plan was of the simplest, the house being about square, with a peaked roof, and the site selected was the nearest possible to the centre of the town geographically, and on the road leading from the East village to the "city," just opposite the residence of the late Dr. Alfred Martin. It was built by "uncle" Jacob Capron, and he was paid $80 for the work. It cannot be considered a credit to the town as a public building, nor need there be any regret that it is a fast crumbling ruin.[1]

The trouble with boundary lines still continued, for during this and the several ensuing years committees were chosen to settle the same between this and a number of the adjoining towns.

In 1830 the town appropriated $3,000 for expenses. In a warrant dated March 29th of that year is found the following resolution: —

"Resolved that in the opinion of this town, the public good does not require any license for retailers of spirituous liquors in the town of Attle-

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[1] It was entirely demolished some time since. 1893.

borough, agreeable to a petition for that purpose." This article was dismissed.

April 7, 1834. "Voted to instruct the selectmen not to approbate nor return the names of any persons to receive licenses to sell spirituous liquors the ensuing year."

In 1831 the records state that six tithing-men were chosen by the town, and in 1836 four were chosen, and for the last time; for in 1837 that office was omitted in the annual choice of officers. In that year auditors were chosen for the first time.

April 1, 1839, the selectmen reported having erected "Guide Posts" during the year as follows: "Two near Senaca Sanford's, one on the Boston and Newport road on the plain," and recommended the erection of others at the following places: One at George Foster's, one at the schoolhouse near John Daggett's, one at the Abiathar Richardson "Old Tavern House," one near Elisha Wilmarth's, one at the corner of J. and G. Bliss', two near Dr. Fuller's old house, one near the burying-ground near the city, one at the "Rail Road House," one at Mr. Holman's, one at the Falls, one at the Union House, one at Samuel Guild's, one at Luther Richards', one at Tully May's, and one near Timothy Stanley's. Many if not all of these were placed, and in some instances the fingerposts are still standing, which direct as before along quiet country roads; but in others the sparsely settled roads have become thickly-populated village streets, and the present generation could not unaided find the sites of the old guideposts.

In 1845 town expenses were $4,000 and the appropriation for highways $1,200.

A special meeting was called for July 12th, 1847, just subsequent to the burning of the almshouse, when it was voted to build another "suitable for the use of the town," but not on the same site as the former. A committee of seven was appointed to make the necessary inquiries both as to a new location and the disposal "of the present Almshouse Farm" and report a plan for a new building with probable cost. One of this committee, Mr. Joseph W. Capron, is still living. This committee's first report relating to a certain farm was not accepted, and later the selectmen were authorized to sell the old farm, which was done April 29th, 1848, for $1,600.16. Some time previous to this the town must have received a special gift or legacy for its poor, for it was about this time voted that "when the almshouse farm is sold, the E. Draper donation be invested in the purchase of another farm." In November the farm belonging to Colonel Ira R. Miller, containing 109½ acres, was purchased for $3,250 and is the one still used as the "poor farm."

During the following year there were several incendiary fires in the schoolhouses, and the selectmen offered a reward of $500 for the apprehension of the criminals, while the town resolved itself into a "committee of the

whole " for the protection of property. There is no further record upon this subject.

In 1855 the town expenses were $10,000 and those for highways $2,000.

Thirty-two years before the final decision the question of town division arose for the first time. In the warrant bearing date Oct. 20th, 1855, Article 5th reads as follows: " To see if the town will choose a committee to take into consideration the propriety of making a division of the town, and report at some future meeting." At the meeting " warned " by the above warrant, a committee consisting of the five following gentlemen was chosen, namely, George Price, Hervey M. Richards, Lyman W. Dean, Joseph W. Capron, Elkanah Briggs.

During this year (1855) the Angle Tree line was remeasured.

April 7, 1856, the committee on division reported as follows: —

Your Committee, chosen at the last November meeting, to take into consideration the propriety of a division of the Town, have attended to that duty, and submit the following report

The town now contains over 5000 Inhabitants, and more than 1000 Voters, being a larger number than can conveniently assemble in one room for the transaction of business properly, or so as to be understood by all. And should a division be made, each part would contain a greater number of Inhabitants than the majority of the towns in the Commonwealth, and also would be entitled each to a Representative in the General Court. The town house and its location has ever been a subject of complaint, and now being out of repair, and insufficient in size, and surrounded by none of the accommodation desirable for man or beast; and believing there is no immediate prospect of the Town in its present condition, agreeing upon a more favorable locality for the erection of a new town House that will be convenient or satisfactory to the whole Town. Should a location be selected further to the North, — thereby saving to them a portion of their travel, — it would discommode the southerly and easterly sections, more than it would benefit the North, therefore nothing would be gained by the whole people in changing the present location, which we believe all agree to be unsuitable.

There is not now, and no prospect there ever will be a common centre to this Town, where it will be convenient for the whole to meet, or for the safe keeping of the Town Records, or for the convenient meeting of the Town Officers, for those having business to transact with them, or for the school committees of the several School Districts, — subjecting them to much time and trouble, owing to this want of a common centre, which would be avoided were a division made, and then a place could be centrally selected for the safe keeping of the Records, and the meeting of the officers, in each part, more convenient to all.

Your Committee, in order to bring the whole subject properly before the Town, come to the conclusion to recommend a division by a line commencing on the west line of the Boston and Providence R. R. where it crosses the Mansfield and Attleborough line, — thence running westerly a strai(gh)t line, until it intersects the Cumberland line at Stone point northerly of the house of the late John Carpenter deceased. This line will pass through a sparsely populated part of the town, and will least interrupt the present boundaries of the School Districts. Such a line will leave on the North, about 2,800, and on the South about 2,600 Inhabitants, — leaving a larger population on the north, and a larger territory on the south, — the greater mechanical interest on the north, and the agricultural interest on the south; — thereby insuring a greater sameness of interest in each part, and more harmony in the management of their schools, and the transaction of their public business.

If the Town is ever to be separated, your committee believe now is the most favorable time, as there is now no public building of much value to be sacrificed, or other property belonging to the town.

Attleborough, Apr. 5, 1856.

Signed,
J. W. Capron,
H. M. Richards,
L. W. Dean.

The two other members of the committee were not in favor and would not sign this report. At the meeting of April 7th, when this report was given, it was voted "to have the moderator appoint a committee of three to present a petition to the Legislature for a division of the town of Attleborough." The committee appointed for this purpose were W. D. Whiting, James C. Hidden, Lyman W. Dean, and here this matter seems to have been dropped entirely.

As has been seen, in 1857 names were dropped and our Senatorial Districts were numbered. The "First Bristol District," as it then was, included Taunton, Raynham, Easton, Mansfield, Norton, and Attleborough. Our district is still the same, excepting only that Seekonk was added in 1876.

During the next two years the most important matters before the town were connected with the schools and will be noticed elsewhere. On May 9th, 1859, $300 were voted to repair the town hall. A week later the town decided to build a new town house "to be located near Robinsonville," appropriated $8,000 for the purpose, and chose a building committee, but finally acted upon the first vote and made the old building do duty a little longer.

A town meeting was called for February 25th, 1860, to see what action the town would take regarding a new boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the new line having been proposed by council in the suit pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, which line conveyed several hundred acres of this town to Rhode Island. A series of resolutions, prepared by Joseph W. Capron and John Daggett, were submitted to the town and by them adopted at this meeting. They were as follows: —

Whereas — A controversy regarding the true boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island has existed for a long time, and at every attempted settlement of this question Rhode Island has made additional demands upon our territory until she has attained six towns which rightfully belong to this Commonwealth, all of which except one are bounded on Narragansett Bay, which thus far exclude the people of this State from said waters, — And whereas, the council for the Commonwealth has submitted to the Governor and Council a conventional line, which takes from us nearly all the remaining portion of said Bay, and a line made without reference to any material boundary, or a better and more convenient line for occupation, and without reference to the interest or wishes of the people affected thereby, —

Therefore Resolved — By the Inhabitants of Attleborough in Town Meeting assembled, that we earnestly remonstrate and protest against the ratification of the proposed line, as the boundary line between said States, for the following reasons: —

First, — Because by said line it is proposed to surrender a portion of this town to Rhode Island, in addition to the one half she has already attained, without pretending to make a more convenient line for occupation, or any other cause, — which is arbitrary and unjust to the citizens of Attleborough,

Second, — Because as citizens of the County of Bristol, we are equally interested in retaining the jurisdiction of the shore line from Pawtucket Falls to Bullock's Neck, which is the only portion of Narragansett Bay to which we in this part of the county have access, — being as fine a bay as there is in the world, — and when desired capable of being made one continued wharf bounded on navigable waters, — and where thousands of our citizens annually resort for health, pleasure, and recreation.

Third, — Because Rhode Island claims and has exercised jurisdiction over more than 17,000

acres of land, embracing $4,000,000 of property in addition to the territory granted by the decision of the Royal Commissioners of 1741.

Fourth, — Because it divides Seekonk, Attleborough, Swansey and Westport, by an arbitrary line, in such a manner, as greatly to injure those portions which remain in Massachusetts.

Fifth, — Because it appears to be a compromise made mainly for the benefit of Rhode Island and Fall River, whereby valuable interest, and important privileges belonging to this State are ceded away without any equivalent.

Sixth, — Because, — as this whole matter has been brought before the Superior Court of the United States for adjudication, and attended by great expense, with the prospect of a speedy settlement: — We therefore prefer that it should be disposed of by that tribunal, rather than to accept the proposed line.

Seventh, — Resolved — That it is against the interest of the people of this Commonwealth, and particularly of this county, to make the exchange proposed, as it would not only deprive us of valuable territory and of rights of fishery long exercised by the people of Massachusetts, and without an equivalent; but would sunder long established relations, derange the proportion between several of the Representative and Senatorial Districts of this County, and thus violate the existing provisions of the Constitution.

In 1861 it was voted to appropriate the sum of $500 for the purpose of defeating the proposed conventional line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. From their settlement up to 1741, Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts — after their union in 1692 — "extended from the Atlantic to the Narragansett Bay." The towns of Barrington, Warren, Bristol, Tiverton, and Little Compton, R. I., were then a part of Massachusetts. In 1741 Rhode Island laid claim to a portion of our State, and commissioners were appointed by the British Crown "to hear and determine the controversy." They gave these five towns to Rhode Island and made some other changes in the line, but did not make precise and exact boundaries or set up any monuments on them. They never saw the land, but made the changes by drawing the line *on paper*. This was the cause which led to the subsequent disputes between the two States.[1] The commissioners from the two States disagreed in their special markings of the line. Those appointed from this State in 1844 "did substantially agree with the commissioners from R. I., and so reported to the Governor and Council in 1848." Their proceedings were, however, "with great unanimity, and no little indignation," declared null and void by our Legislature, "and a special commission was appointed in 1852 to prostrate the eighty-four stone monuments' set up by the Mass. officers."

The two States, though several efforts were made, failed to agree, and the Legislature by its "Resolve of 1848" directed the Governor to commence proceedings in the Supreme Court of the United States, there to have this matter finally determined. The bill filed in 1852 desired that Court to appoint commissioners to run the line exactly as the Royal Commissioners had run it on paper — as it was possible to do — and set up the necessary monuments. This again would easily have settled the dispute, but before

[1] This was the Royal Charter that took from us the town of Cumberland ceded to Rhode Island in 1745.

there had been a hearing a proposition was made to abandon all efforts to find the real line and to create an entirely new and arbitrary one "by ceding to Rhode Island the flourishing town of Pawtucket, and the more valuable portion of Seekonk, in exchange for the town of Fall River, R. I., and a small portion of Tiverton." This seemed at the time an unfair and unjust arrangement, the exchange being so unequal, as by it Massachusetts lost 2,200 people, 921 voters, and $1,610,691 worth of property.

The people of this town did all in their power to prevent the yielding to this — as they considered it — extortionate demand; but their efforts, with those of all the others interested, were of no avail: the new line was run with no apparent regard for equity or right. The line as run finally made no appreciable difference in our town line, and what was done by our citizens was done out of loyalty to the State and a neighborly feeling for the towns specially affected. The new boundary line was ratified by the authorities of the two States, — not the Supreme Court, — and the monuments which define it were all properly set. The result of this exchange has been different from what was anticipated. Pawtucket and Fall River were the two localities most largely interested and apparently at the time the most injured by the change; but to both of these cities it has proved to be a benefit.

The chief actions of the town during the immediately succeeding years related to the Civil War and will be noticed in the following chapter.

April 4, 1864. "Voted to instruct the selectmen to complain of all sellers of intoxicating drinks, not licensed by the laws of the State, and all persons who rent buildings for that nefarious business, in this town."

In 1865 the appropriation for current expenses was $14,000.

May 2, 1871, the town voted not to allow the sale of "ale, porter, strong beer, or lager beer," the vote cast being 296 opposed, 70 in favor. "Voted that the town lease the Agricultural Hall for three years, at $500 per annum, for first, and second floors if needed." The first town meeting held there was on May 3d, 1872, and the meetings continued to be held there up to the time of the division.

April 5, 1875. "Voted to appropriate the sum of $300, for the G. A. R. posts, to use in decorating the graves of the soldiers and sailors of the Union, to include all who have ever fought for the country."

November 22, 1875. "Voted on motion of W. D. Wilmarth, that the town consent to allow the formation of a district, under the name of 'Attleborough Improvement District,' within the limits of the 'Attleborough Water Supply District,' by virtue of, and for the purposes set forth in Chapter 332, of the Acts of 1870." At the same meeting, "On motion of E. Hunt, voted that the town do appoint a committee to procure exhibits for the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876, illustrative of the interests, progress, and present condition of Attleborough, as requested by the Massachusetts Centennial Commission." It was voted that the committee

consist of nine persons, including the selectmen, "Chose by nomination, J. B. Savery, John Daggett, Esq., George B. Whitney, Henry Rice, Elisha G. May, S. P. Lathrop, and the selectmen." The latter were G. M. Horton, D. S. Hall, and H. C. Read. For some reason the proposed plan was not carried out.

In 1877 the appropriation for current expenses was $40,000 and $8,000 for highways, an almost triple increase in the former in twelve years. The appropriation for paupers was $4,500.

At the annual town meeting held March 17, 1879, the office of overseer of the poor was separated from that of selectmen and assessors, and one only chosen. At an adjourned meeting held April 7th of that year, it was voted "to instruct the selectmen to have the Old Powder House repaired at an expense not to exceed sixty dollars, and that the old shingles be placed inside the building." This year the town voted to use the entire Agricultural Building at a rental of $1,000.

May 19, 1881. "Voted to subscribe to the Providence Telephone Company, and place an instrument in the Town Clerk's office."

An Act relative to the rights of women to vote for school committees was approved by the State Legislature on April 9, 1881. Four ladies in this town qualified and voted as soon as possible. They were Mrs. Lowell Brown, Dr. Laura V. G. Mackie, Mrs. Wm. Thurber, and Mrs. Samuel Holman.

The results of this Act of our Legislature, for good or ill, have not as yet been manifested to any great degree. We do not speak with regard to the motives governing the women themselves. Thus far we believe it to be quite true that every woman who has qualified to vote in Attleborough has done so intelligently and conscientiously, but it is not yet time to look for the effects of so recent a cause. The coming generation must pass judgment upon this great political change of the nineteenth century.

In 1883 the own voted, "No license." One year after the Local Option Bill was passed, the town voted in favor of license, and the selectmen opposed the measure and prevented its being carried into effect.

March 17, 1884. "Voted to grant the use of the school houses in the village of Attleborough for evening schools, to be maintained by the trustees of the Richardson School Fund."

At this meeting the question of division was again brought forward.

"Voted that it is the sense of this meeting that it is for the best interests of the town, that this town should be divided: 225 votes for, 168 against."

"Voted to commit the entire subject of the division of the town to a committee of thirteen, to be chosen by nomination as follows: five from the north section of the town, five from the east section, and three from the south section, with instructions to report at an adjourned meeting." The following named gentlemen constituted this committee: Francis S. Draper, Oscar M. Draper, William H. Rogers, William H. Kling, Joseph G. Barden,

William P. Shaw, Edwin A. Robinson, Elisha G. May, Charles E. Bliss, George A. Adams, Philip Brady, George N. Crandall, Everett S. Horton.

At this meeting a Board of Health was elected for the first time.

March 29 the committee appointed on the 17th instant reported in favor of division, giving several reasons as to its expediency. One was, there being two especially thriving sections in the town, their "municipal and business interests" would be enhanced by division; another, that the educational facilities met the demand in each section; and another that the large population of the town could easily have a very nearly equal division. The report further stated. — "That the municipal interests and prosperity of the town and the public welfare of its inhabitants on account of our greatly increased population and diverse interests cannot now be as carefully guarded and intelligently considered as in the past, therefore your committee find that the municipal business and educational interests of the town and the public welfare of its inhabitants demand that the town should, and we recommend that the town be divided into two parts, one of which shall include, and be known by the name of North Attleborough, and the other or remaining part as Attleborough." The committee further recommended that the dividing line begin "at the division line between Norton and Mansfield, and running southwesterly in a straight line across the town to the point where the highway from Adamsdale touches the Rhode Island line, said line passing near the residence of E. D. Parmenter, J. Crehan, W. Givens, and through the village of Oldtown, crossing the turnpike at the intersection of said turnpike with the highway leading to R. Esten's, and then passing near the house of H. Carpenter north of Adamsdale to said point in the Rhode Island line."

The valuation of the town for 1883 was $5,367,099. By said division line $66,720 would be taken from East Attleborough, $152,465 from South Attleborough. The valuation of North Attleborough was $2,465,995. With the addition North Attleborough's valuation would be $2,685,180; that of East Attleborough $2,681,919. The committee further recommended that real and personal property rights of action, and public debt existing at date of division be divided between the two towns according to the valuation of property within the limits of each, to be assessed by a Board of Appraisers, or in any other way the town might determine. W. H. Kling, Charles E. Bliss, G. N. Crandall, E. S. Horton, W. P. Shaw, W. H. Rogers, Geo. A. Adams, signed in favor; F. S. Draper, O. M. Draper, E. A. Robinson, E. G. May, J. G. Barden, were opposed to those measures (and Philip Brady must have opposed them, though his name was not found with these others). It was voted that a committee of five be appointed to employ a competent surveyor to survey the boundary lines of the town and report with a plan of the proposed new line. This committee were G. A. Adams, C. E. Bliss, E. G. May, O. M. Draper, J. G. Barden.

May 17, 1884, this matter was brought before the citizens for their decision.

"Upon the question, 'Shall the town be divided?' 'No,' 225 votes, 'Yes,' 180 votes." The matter at this time, it is said, hinged more upon the proposed line than upon division itself, and the unfavorable decision was because the line was not satisfactory to the town.

March 15, 1886. Upon the license question the vote stood, "Yes," 382; "No," 434.

August 27, 1886. "Voted that the town instruct the selectmen to divide the town into as many voting precincts as they deem proper." This arrangement was for greater convenience in the election of State officers at the autumn town meetings. The annual meetings for the election of town officers and the transaction of town business continued to be held as before at Agricultural Hall. At this same meeting in August it was voted "that the town light the main thoroughfare between Attleborough and North Attleborough (with electric lights); voted to appropriate therefor a sum not to exceed nine hundred dollars."

September 18, 1886. The town was divided into three voting districts, designated as North, East, and South Districts. The appropriations for 1886 were, for paupers, $8,000; for highways and bridges, $23,000; for current expenses: $8,000, and for incidental expenses, $5,000. The taxes have been very heavy, and on the increase for several years, on account of the large debt the town incurred for the construction of its waterworks, and the expenses for repairing the damages caused by the flood of February, 1886.

At the annual town meeting in March, 1887, it was voted — 78 to 52 — to authorize the construction of a tunnel under the Park Street crossing of the Boston and Providence R. R. Nothing of special importance came up at this meeting outside the usual affairs, such as acceptance of streets, building of bridges over highways or railroads, school appropriations, ordinary expenses of the town, etc. The vote at this meeting on the license question stood, "No," 561, "Yes," 497. Appropriations were $90,000, and the entire amount to be raised by taxation was $128,400. The town debt amounted to $153,500. Of this sum, $25,000 was in notes for the balance of the loan deposited in the year 1883, for the purchase of the School Districts' property; $30,000 was for a portion of the balance of the town's indebtedness not provided for by taxation; $65,000 for bonds; and $35,500 was borrowed in anticipation of the taxes for 1886–87.

The following ladies qualified to vote, and registered in March, 1887, and thirty-four of the number cast their ballots at the annual meeting.

Amelia R. Amos,	Emily B. Fittz,	Florence Nightingale,
Anne F. Barden,	Ellen A. Franklin,	Emily R. Perry,
Cora F. Barden,	Jennie F. Fuller,	Louise K. Philbrook,
Emma L. Battey,	Alice D. Graham,	Angee M. Porter,
Phebe E. Boomer,	Ellen G. Gustin,	Ellen E. Read,
Harriet A. Blackinton,	Deborah B. Hatch,	Eliza A. Richardson,
Zemira Blackinton,	Hannah F. Hatch,	Mary K. Robbins,

Lidora E. Briggs,	Viola L. Hatch,	Florence M. Sweet,
Martha A. Briggs,	Christina A. Holman,	Lucy B. Sweet,
Sophia G. Brown,	Eliza D. Horton,	Lucy C. Sweet,
Rhoda P. Capron,	Eliza F. Johnston,	Lydia I. Sweet,
Rebecca M. Coombs,	Betsey H. Jordan,	Elizabeth Stewart,
Cora K. Copeland,	Elizabeth C. Lamb,	Mary E. Sweeney,
Martha P. Copeland,	Ermina C. Lincoln,	Ida B. Thacher,
Sarah S. Draper,	Arabella L. Livsey,	Julia M. Thomas,
Jennie E. Ellis,	Clarissa E. Luther,	Elizabeth G. Thurber,
Cornelia Everett,	Laura V. G. Mackie	Helen A. Wexel,
Hannah S. Fisher,	Eliza J. Metcalf,	Ellie E. Whiting,
Elizabeth M. Thurber,		Lena F. Whitmore.

As may be seen by the last annual report previous to the division, the following officers were deemed necessary for the proper attention to the various affairs of this town, and the transaction of its public business: Selectmen, three, one from each district; Assessors, five; Overseers of the Poor, three; Treasurer, one; Town Clerk, one; School Committee, nine members; Tax Collectors, three, one from each district; Road Surveyors, twenty; Constables, twenty-five; Board of Health, five members; Sinking Fund Commissioners, three; Treasurer of same, one; Sealer of Weights and Measures, one; Fence Viewers, five; Surveyors of Wood and Bark, ten; Weighers of Coal and Hay, ten; Surveyors of Lumber, six; Auditors, three; Pound Keeper, one; Truant Officers, three; Special Police, eleven; Fire Police, nine; Forest Firewards, nine, three in each district; Board of Registrars, four members; Wardens, nine, three for each district. Total, one hundred and sixty.

During 1886 the vexed question of dividing the town again came up, and for many months it was the theme for general discussion throughout the entire territorial limit. The movement in this matter started in East Attleborough. The first perhaps to agitate the question publicly was Lyman M. Stanley, and he, Everett S. Horton, and Charles E. Bliss, were the chief promoters of the movement in that part of the town.

A petition asking for a separation, or division, was circulated, and was at first signed by about three hundred (300) persons. Later, this number was increased to five hundred and ninety-seven (597). Of these 597 petitioners, 97 were not voters; 158 were resident north of the proposed dividing line, and represented $250,000 worth of property; and those south of the line represented $775,000 worth of property.

A remonstrance was also circulated, and signed by a large number disfavoring division. The property represented by the whole number of remonstrants on both sides of the line was $2,081,887, and that of the whole number of petitioners, $883,236 — less than half as much.

The petition — signed by Mr. O. M. Draper and twenty-five other citizens of the town — asking the Legislature to provide for a division of the town and to authorize the incorporation of the northerly portion as a new town, was as follows: —

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, IN GENERAL COURT ASSEMBLED:

The undersigned petitioners, citizens of the town of Attleborough, respectfully represent that the convenience and best interests of the inhabitants demand a division thereof; therefore we pray that that portion of the town lying northerly of a line commencing at a stone monument situated in the westerly line of the town of Attleborough, on the northerly side of the road leading westerly from the Polly Chace place, thence easterly in a straight line to a point on the east side of the road one hundred feet southerly of the house of Howard E. Rhodes, thence deflecting to the north and following a straight line passing midway between Leprilete P. Fisher's house and the house of the late Tisdale E. Fisher, thence in the same course to the Mansfield line at a point about five thousand four hundred and fifty feet northerly of a monument at the corner of the towns of Mansfield and Norton, be incorporated as the town of North Attleborough:

O. M. Draper,	Edwin Richards,	F. A. Newell,
D. D. Codding,	C. E. Smith,	L. Z. Carpenter,
J. D. Richards,	G. M. Horton,	S. W. Carpenter,
Geo. W. Cheever,	John W. Luther,	G. N. Crandall,
T. I. Smith,	J. L. Wells,	L. W. Dean,
O. B. Bestor,	L. M. Stanley,	G. T. Holmes,
Chas. W. H. Day,	Chas. E. Bliss,	A. M. Everett,
John P. Bonnett,	E. S. Horton,	James J. Horton,
E. B. Bullock,	A. B. Carpenter.	

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

BOSTON, November 18, 1886.

I direct the publication of the above petition in the Attleborough Chronicle and Attleboro Advocate.

HENRY B. PEIRCE, *Secretary.*

After many delays and postponements which extended over a period of six months, the matter was finally given a hearing on May 10th, 1887, by the Committee on Towns, in the Blue Room of the State House. The following citizens were present on that occasion: Ex-Senator F. L. Burden, Representatives A. T. Wales and T. G. Sandland, C. T. Guild, Chairman of the Selectmen, Randolph Knapp, Town Treasurer, Rev. John Whitehill, Postmaster P. E. Brady, George N. Crandall, S. P. Lathrop, Charles E. Bliss, Lyman M. Stanley, Francis G. Pate, Charles E. Smith, William H. Gould, Philip M. Carpenter, Philip Brady, Oscar M. Draper, Henry Wexel, William J. Luther, Lucius Z. Carpenter, Albert W. Sturdy, Charles H. Wetherell, George Asa Dean, Dr. John R. Bronson, Edward R. Price, J. Lyman Sweet, William M. Fisher, Henry F. Barrows, Everett S. Horton, John Thacher, Handel N. Daggett, Elijah R. Read, Arthur B. Carpenter, Edgar Perry, George Randall.

At that time the State had but one larger town than Attleborough, and that was Pittsfield. A statement was made to the committee regarding the prior actions of the town upon the division question, and various statistics were also given relating to the size, population, etc., by the Attorney for Division. Upon the first day the evidence was confined to those favoring division, and the case was conducted by Attorney F. H. Williams. The first

person called upon to give testimony was Charles E. Bliss. The hearing extended over two days. The attorneys employed by the anti-division people were Mr. Story and Mr. Sherman Hoar. A large number of the citizens above mentioned gave their testimony upon one side of the question or the other, expressing their opinions as to the expediency or non-expediency of a separation, furnishing statistics upon a variety of points, etc., but it is not necessary to give their statements in detail here. Several expressed as their reason for desiring division the firm conviction that economy in government would of necessity follow; others as positively, with reasons, their conviction that expenditures would be increased. One gentleman from East Attleborough, in speaking of a fellow-citizen, said: "He is from North Attleborough, which is four miles away, and which is connected with us geographically, and in no other relation;" another, in reply to a lawyer's question as to how the two sections were connected, said: "Very much as the Siamese twins were; each does just as it pleases, but they are held by a ligament which is very disagreeable;" and his special reason for desiring separation was in a word "Home Rule." On the other hand facts were brought forward to show that there were many more bonds of union between the two parts than those affected by geographical lines, those of business and social interests being especially strong in the estimation of many, and one gentleman, a resident in East Attleborough for fifteen years, made the following statement: "When I came to Attleborough there was no railroad to North Attleborough. I have seen Falls Village and North Attleborough become one village, and Falls Village and Robinsonville joined together. The two sections are connected somewhat as the Siamese twins, but let them alone and the ligament will be larger than either." Thus the unity and diversity of interests between the two chief villages was discussed until the end of the hearing. This was concluded by the vote of the Committee on Towns to act upon the suggestion of the attorney for division and visit Attleborough.

The vote was carried into effect on May 23, upon which day the members of the committee with Mr. Fred. H. Williams, the attorney for division, and Mr. Sherman Hoar, attorney for the opposition, arrived in town. They were received by a committee of six gentlemen — Messrs. E. S. Horton, C. E. Bliss, and O. M. Draper, representing the petitioners, and Messrs. J. L. Sweet, John Whitehill, and Burrill Porter, Jr., the remonstrants. The two town representatives, T. G. Sandland and A. T. Wales, with Messrs. G. N. Crandall, L. M. Stanley, W. H. Gould, J. L. Wells, and a representative of the *Advocate*, were also of the party. A large barge to which four horses were attached was provided by R. D. Manchester, and the gentlemen were very comfortably and rapidly conveyed over the selected route, which comprised the principal streets of East Attleborough, the drive thence by North Avenue and Falls Village to North Attleborough, which was traversed, and later in the day — Mr. E. R. Price having joined the party — the drive to

West and South Attleborough, and from there through Hebronville and Dodgeville back to the starting-point. It may interest future generations of readers, should these lines ever meet their eyes, to know that at one o'clock an interval of relaxation in the more active occupations of the day occurred, and a dinner was served to the members of this party at the Wamsutta House — a *good* one, the chronicler adds, who was one of the partakers. The committee, after this visit to the town, reported unanimously in favor of division, a rather unusual occurrence in such matters, it is said. They further introduced a bill into the Senate providing for the requested division, with an amendment which placed the expense attending the same upon the entire town as it was before the change.

The following table of figures[1] shows the relative size of the two towns, and the advantages each one may possess in certain directions, as these were estimated before the division was effected, though the two portions were to be made as nearly equal as possible in every respect.

	North Attleborough.	Attleborough.
Acreage	10,143 acres,	14,166 acres.
Population (estimated)	7,100	6,900
Valuation, Personal Estate	$756,395	$754,597
Valuation, Real Estate	$2,584,495	$2,360,862
Polls	1,623	1,630
Voters (estimated)	972	900
Houses	1,186	929
High Schools	1	1
High School Scholars	44	45
Schoolhouses	11	13
Scholars (excepting High)	1,258	1,265
Churches and Chapels	8	8
National Banks, Savings and Loan Fund Associations, Water and Gas Companies, Fire Departments, Libraries	1 of each	1 of each.
Savings Banks	1	0
Hotels	2	2
Railway Stations	3	3
Postoffices	2	5
Public Property: —		
Lock-ups	1	1
Almshouses	0	1
Stone-crusher	1	0
Schoolhouses	11	13
Towns in State having smaller valuation	284	278
Towns in State having smaller number of polls	296	296

Following is the Act of Division, with the exception of Section 11, which provides that the act shall take effect before November 1, 1887, in case a majority of the voters of the town accept it.

Section 1. All that part of the town of Attleborough comprised within the following limits, that is to say, beginning at a stone monument situated in the boundary line between the

[1] Taken from the *Attleboro Advocate.*

town of Attleborough and the town of Cumberland, in the state of Rhode Island, and on the northerly side of the road leading westerly from the Polly Chace place, so called; thence running easterly in a straight line to a point on the east side of the road one hundred feet southerly of the house of Howard E. Rhodes; thence deflecting to the north and following a straight line passing midway between Leprilete P. Fisher's house and the house of the late Tisdale E. Fisher; thence in the same course to a monument in the boundary line between the towns of Attleborough and Mansfield five thousand four hundred and fifty feet northerly of a monument at the corner of the towns of Mansfield and Norton; thence northwesterly on the boundary line as it now exists between the towns of Attleborough and Mansfield till it comes to a corner marking the boundary of the towns of Attleborough, Mansfield and Wrentham; thence southwesterly by the boundary line as it now exists between the towns of Attleborough and Wrentham to a corner marking the boundary of the said towns of Attleborough and Wrentham and the town of Cumberland in the state of Rhode Island; thence about southerly along the boundary line between the said towns of Attleborough and Cumberland to the point of beginning, is hereby set off from Attleborough and incorporated a town under the Name of North Attleborough; and the town of North Attleborough is hereby invested with all the powers, privileges, rights and immunities, and made subject to all the duties and liabilities of other towns of the Commonwealth.

SECTION 2. The inhabitants and estates within the territory hereby set off and the owners of such estates shall be holden to pay all taxes assessed and in arrears to the same persons, and such taxes may be collected in the same manner as if this act had not been passed; and until the next state valuation the town of North Attleborough, annually, in the month of November, shall pay to the town of Attleborough the proportion of any state or county tax which the said town of Attleborough may be required to pay upon the inhabitants or estates hereby set off, said proportion to be ascertained by the last valuation next preceding the passage of this act; and the assessors of Attleborough shall make returns of said valuation, and the proportion thereof in the towns of Attleborough and North Attleborough, respectively, to the secretary of the Commonwealth and to the county commissioners of the county of Bristol.

SECTION 3. The towns of North Attleborough and Attleborough shall be liable, respectively, for the relief and support of all persons now or hereafter needing aid as paupers, or who may derive or acquire, or who have derived or acquired, a settlement within their respective limits. And the town of North Attleborough shall pay annually to the town of Attleborough such proportion of all costs for the relief and support of persons now or hereafter needing aid as paupers who may or have derived or acquired a settlement by reason of military service as part of the quota of Attleborough, or who cannot be located on the site whence their settlement is derived or whence it was acquired, as the valuation of the town of North Attleborough bears to that of Attleborough as it is now bounded, according to the last state valuation prior to said relief and support.

SECTION 4. Existing rights of action in favor of or against the town of Attleborough may be instituted and prosecuted or defended by said town in the same manner and with like effect as before the passage of this act, and the amount recovered therein shall be paid or received as the case may be by the town of Attleborough, and reckoning costs and expenses, including counsel fees, shall be divided between the towns in the ratio of one-half to North Attleborough and one-half to Attleborough.

SECTION 5. The corporate property of the town of Attleborough, both real and personal, in being at the time of the passage of this act, and the town debts then existing, shall be divided between the towns of Attleborough and North Attleborough according to the valuation of the property within their respective limits, as assessed May first, eighteen hundred and eighty-six. The towns shall severally retain and hold all the real and personal property now within their respective limits, upon a valuation to be agreed upon by the boards of selectmen of both towns in concurrence, and differences in valuation shall be equalized and balances adjusted by apportionment of the town debt. In case of a failure to agree upon a valuation or division of the assets and liabilities, the same shall be determined by a board of three commissioners, neither of whom shall be residents of either of said towns, to be appointed by the superior court for the county of Bristol in term time or vacation, upon petition of either town

with notice to the other. The commission so appointed shall sit and, after hearing both parties, determine the matters of disagreement aforesaid, and return their award into said court, and the award of the majority, when accepted by the court, shall be final; and said court may issue any writ or make any order thereon necessary to carry the same into effect. The award may be set aside for fraud or manifest error, but for no other cause, and thereupon may be recommitted to the same or other commissioners to be appointed for the same purpose, with like powers and duties as aforesaid.

SECTION 6. The town of North Attleborough shall, until otherwise provided by law, continue to be a part of the second congressional district, of the second councillor district, of the first Bristol senatorial district and the first Bristol representative district; and at all elections the inhabitants of the town of North Attleborough shall vote at polling places to be furnished within the town. The selectmen and clerk of the town of North Attleborough shall make returns of elections as if the town had existed at the time of the formation of said districts.

SECTION 7. Any justice of the peace within and for Bristol county, residing in the town of North Attleborough, may issue his warrant, directed to any inhabitant of said town, requiring him to notify and warn the inhabitants thereof qualified to vote in town affairs, to meet at the time and place therein appointed, for the purpose of choosing all such officers as towns are by law authorized and required to choose at their annual meetings, and said warrant shall be observed by posting copies thereof, attested by the person to whom the same is directed, in three or more public places in the town of North Attleborough, seven days at least before the time of such meeting. Such justice, or in his absence such inhabitant required to notify the meeting, shall preside until the choice of a moderator in said town meeting. The selectmen of the town of Attleborough shall, before said meeting, prepare a list of voters in the town of North Attleborough qualified to vote at said meeting, and shall deliver the same to the person presiding at such meeting before the choice of moderator thereof.

SECTION 8. The towns of Attleborough and North Attleborough shall bear the expense of making the necessary surveys and establishing the lines between the towns of Attleborough and North Attleborough.

SECTION 9. The town of Attleborough shall pay to the town of North Attleborough a half part of whatever amount may hereafter be refunded to said town of Attleborough from the state or United States, to reimburse it for bounties to soldiers or state aid heretofore paid to the families of soldiers after deducting all reasonable expenses.

SECTION 10. All rights heretofore secured to existing corporations upon the territory hereby incorporated shall continue as though this act had not passed.

The arguments brought by the petitioners for a division were chiefly that the size of the town was too great; that there was not one centre, but two; that these were practically the centres of two towns, as they were separated both by distance and diversity of interests; that the inhabitants already numbered too many to be properly managed by one official body, this body having for some time been broken into sectional parts; that the voters were too numerous to be satisfactorily handled at one meeting-place for the transaction of public affairs; that the rivalry existing between the two largest villages had already caused much legislation for improvements, and that the result of this legislation had been to impose burdensome taxes upon the entire town; that these and future similar burdens would be much lightened by having two towns in place of one; in fact, that economies impossible with one town could easily be practised with two, etc., and it was the opinion of some that the only alternative to division was municipal government with all its attendant expenses in the not far distant future. To each of these arguments those opposing division said in a word: "It *is* not so," or

"It *will not* be true." They argued that there was no more reason for making two towns on account of size than when Attleborough was a part of the Rehoboth North Purchase, its territory being in fact less than at that time by the removal of the Gore, now the town of Cumberland, R. I.; that voters could be accommodated and town business properly transacted under the existing conditions; that the two more populous sections were not "united only geographically," but that their interests were decidedly in many ways one and the same; and so on to the end of the list.

The day appointed for deciding this long talked of and important matter was July 30th, 1887. Previous to this time great efforts had been made by each side to turn the tide of the popular vote in its direction. Party spirit had run high, and party feeling was very deep. To both sides equally this seemed a question of vital interest to the good of the town, and in the eyes of the one side and of the other, whichever way the scales should turn, so strong were the convictions and so bitter and pronounced was the partisanship, it seemed as if the life of the town hung upon the balance, and its whole future prosperity depended upon the issue. Such being the conditions, it is greatly to the credit of our citizens that when the momentous day arrived they conducted the necessary business in the most quiet and courteous manner. One says: "In all the precincts it was very orderly and quiet. Officers were present to enforce order if necessary, but they had literally nothing to do but to kill time."

In North Attleborough little if any opposition work was carried on during voting hours. The voting was done in the old Universalist Church building, and the polls in that precinct were closed at 4.10 P.M. At Attleborough the gathering was a larger one. Several gentlemen opposed to division did considerable "quiet work," while others were active upon the opposite side. Here the polls were opened in the Engine House on South Main Street and were closed at 4.30 P.M. At South Attleborough one man especially was very active in bringing opposition voters to the polls at Merry Hall. The citizens there and in the west part of the town had been decidedly against division from the commencement of the last movement in that direction. The polls there closed at 4 P.M., and the result was no uncertain one.

We again quote the words of another: "It was noticeable at the polling places that most every man who voted was decided in his mind, and while attempts were made by both sides to influence, they were practically abandoned early in the day. Another pleasing thing to record is that the utmost good humor prevailed. There was good-natured chatting, and occasionally some one was excited into a little louder tone of voice than common, but considering the importance of the occasion and the earnestness on both sides it was remarkably quiet, and highly creditable that it was so."

The official count stands as follows: —

	Yeas.	Nays.	Total.
North Attleborough	234	371	605
East Attleborough	414	180	594
South Attleborough	17	91	108
Total Yeas			665
Total Nays			642
Whole number of votes cast			1,307
Majority in favor of division			23

Thus by a small majority this great question was decided, and out of the single town which had lived and prospered for almost two hundred years two entire towns "fully armed and equipped" were called into existence. Apparently the matter was settled, and it was generally supposed that it only remained for the citizens of each section to assemble and in due form to elect the several officers required, when the whole of two small but separate governments would be set in motion. This was accordingly soon done. On the tenth of August the new officers for ATTLEBOROUGH were duly nominated at a meeting held on the evening of that day in Park Hall. On the following evening the citizens of the new town assembled in Engine Hall and nominated the officers for NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH. The first town meeting of the new town was held in the old Universalist Church at ten o'clock A.M., August thirteenth, and the officers previously nominated were elected with a few changes. In Attleborough the first meeting was held on the same day in the South Main Street Engine House, when the officers already nominated were elected by an almost unanimous vote. At this meeting on motion of A. T. Wales the following vote was passed: "As the Agricultural hall, where we have formerly held town meetings, has ceased to be within the limits of the town of Attleboro, by reason of the setting off of part of the territory, the selectmen are instructed to notify the Attleboro Agricultural Association that the occupation of their property by the town of Attleboro, will be discontinued from this date."

The new officers were not however allowed to commence their duties at once. The result of the decision made on July thirtieth had scarcely been announced when rumors of attempts to challenge the legality of the vote were heard, and two days thereafter it was stated that the town treasurer would decline to turn over the funds in his hands to any other official. It was also stated that, should the citizens attempt to hold meetings for the nomination and election of new officers, injunctions would be issued against them. Nine gentlemen from North Attleborough and one from Attleborough united in petitioning for an injunction against both the officers who proposed to hold the meetings and those who were to serve the necessary warrants for the same. A delay occurred, and the injunction was not obtained in time. All that could then be done was to give formal notice of the expected injunction, and such notices were sent to the meetings in both places. As has been seen, however, the meetings were held and the officers nominated and elected.

After this the petition for an injunction was amended, and it was requested that the new officers should be forbidden to act and the old ones directed not to recognize them by transmitting any public funds to their hands. The ten gentlemen who presented the petition were Edward R. Price, T. A. Barden, H. F. Barrows, Lafayette Draper, C. B. Thompson, J. G. Barden, E. S. Williams, John B. Curtis, John S. Follett, and H. M. Daggett; and Officer Brown served notices upon F. I. Babcock, C. T. Guild, O. M. Draper, Elijah Capron, J. T. Bates, and R. Knapp, summoning them to appear before the Supreme Judicial Court, in Taunton, upon the first Monday in October, 1887, to answer to the complaints preferred by the petitioners. The hearing was given upon this petition by Mr. Justice Holmes of the Supreme Bench, but he ruled it out of court on the ground that a few citizens were not sufficient to bring an action under such circumstances.

Following this decision, Mr. Knapp petitioned as town treasurer "for a writ of mandamus to compel the three collectors of the old town, who still continued as collectors under the act authorizing division, to pay over to him whatever public funds they might have in their possession." Messrs. Bennett and Teel were the attorneys engaged for Mr. Knapp by his supporters; and the collectors, though still nominally the defendants, "authorized Messrs. Gaston & Fales, through the selectmen of the two towns, to act for them." Mr. Gaston entered a demurrer to the effect that, the collectors having given bonds not to any one person but to the town, legal proceedings against them must therefore originate with the town, and Mr. Knapp's petition could not for that reason be legally granted. This case, with the demurrer, it was decided should be reported to the full bench.

Finding a final decision thus still unreached satisfactorily, the gentlemen who originated these steps toward undoing the action of the town made one more attempt in favor of carrying out their project. They were gentlemen whose motives were well understood. They saw only injury and no benefit to their native town in division and honestly deemed it to be their duty to do all in their power to prevent the action from going into effect. Their reasons were respected, though their course may have been deprecated by many as unnecessary and unwise. Following the last-mentioned proceedings, a writ of *quo warranto* was sued for in the name of the Attorney-General. The petition for this alleged that Mr. Knapp was acting illegally as Town Treasurer. Messrs. Bennett & Fales were Mr. Knapp's counsel in this case, and F. B. Byram was selected to represent the Attorney-General. The counsel, though nominally opposed, were "in reality representing but one side." The attorneys agreed upon a statement of facts, which they presented to Judge Holmes for a decision. One of the facts alleged was that some fifty or more persons who desired to register were illegally deprived of their right to do so; another, that the meetings were not held at the "same time" in the three precincts because they closed at different hours. Judge Holmes at once

decided that this new presentation and the connection its counsel had with the former petitions to the court involved complications, and he therefore requested Mr. Gaston, also previously connected with it, "to enter into the case for the Attorney-General." This he consented to do and proceeded to dispute "the alleged facts," disproving the one in which it was stated that a certain number of voters were unlawfully deprived of their right. Upon the suggestion of the judge that this was not material to the points in dispute, Mr. Gaston "finally assented to the proposition that that number might have registered had the opportunity been given." This point was immaterial because there was no means of deciding that the result would have been changed had fifty or more other voters cast their votes. Testimony was given to the effect that the two towns were then acting as such, and it was admitted by one of the counsel that they were "two towns *de facto*." The ruling of Judge Holmes was "that the provisions of the division act were declaratory and not mandatory. That is, while certain things were provided to be done the failure to do them did not render the division invalid." The natural further ruling was therefore that the office of town treasurer formerly held by Mr. Knapp was legally vacant, and this involved a further ruling in favor of the collectors, who could not be ordered to pay any moneys into the hands of a man thus unauthorized to receive them. This decided the case "in favor of the respondents who thereupon appealed to the full bench."

The case was *practically* ended, and the work of the two towns went on under the officers duly elected. Before it "was reached in the full court the legislature intervened and by their act ratified the proceedings, and rendered any further action by the court unnecessary."

ACTS AND RESOLVES. March, 1888, Chap. 98. An Act to confirm the proceedings of the town meeting of the town of Attleborough, held on the thirtieth day of July in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECT. 1. The proceedings of the town meeting of the town of Attleborough held on the thirtieth day of July in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven for the purpose of accepting the provisions of chapter four hundred and twelve of the acts of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, being an act to incorporate the town of North Attleborough, shall not be invalid by reason of a failure to designate polling places in the several voting precincts of said town of Attleborough, or of a failure to make any necessary registration of voters; and the acceptance of said act by said meeting is hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage. [*Approved March 6, 1888.*

Shortly subsequent to the decision of Mr. Justice Holmes on the division question, the annual town meetings for the election of State officers occurred. Attleborough continued the Republican majority so long maintained in the community of East Attleborough, and the Republicans of North Attleborough were especially desirous of establishing the record of their new town with a Republican stamp. The meeting there was a very lively one, both parties being determined to score a victory, and the result was an unusually

large vote, seventy-seven per cent. of the whole possible number of votes being cast. The majority was a good one in favor of the Republicans, and the whole party there was properly highly jubilant over their success. Red fire and fireworks were displayed in great abundance; a band — White's — was secured, and a torchlight procession was formed, which, under the able marshalship of Mr. John B. Peck, pursued its brilliant and enthusiastic march through all the principal streets of the village, which were well filled with interested spectators.

When the result of the vote was made known, from all sides the new town received cordial welcomes and hearty congratulations from sister towns, and many good wishes for a future of ever continuing prosperity were expressed. So North Attleborough started on her new career under most fair and promising circumstances. We too wish her every measure of true success and as honorable a record of her own as has been heretofore the record of the mother town; but most of all we wish she was still a part of the one old town, and that the long talked of question had been one of *closer union*, not of *dismemberment*.

In telling the story of DIVISION we have endeavored to simply relate facts as they have been presented to us, adding but few comments. It is not yet time (1888) to pronounce upon the merits of this decision. All opinion, even the most decided, upon resulting benefits or injuries is only conjectural; all prosperity upon the one hand, or all adversity upon the other, can be equally only prophetic. From the nature of the case, it must be years before the results can be accurately known and measured, therefore upon the next generation will devolve the duty of pronouncing a correct judgment as to the good or ill of this act of their fathers. We cannot pretend, nor is it necessary here, to express an opinion upon the arguments so strongly urged in favor of a separation, but we have no doubt that the great majority on both sides of the question were entirely sincere in the opinions they severally held and in what they said and did looked to the good of their communities and the town or prospective two towns. We have no doubt also that many in all parts of both the towns, while properly acquiescing in the decision made by the citizens and yielding their allegiance honestly to the new town or the old as it may be due, still wish most strongly and deeply that no change had been made, and that ATTLEBOROUGH was still one in territory and in name.

To record the fact of division is the one sad task that devolves upon us in our attempts to complete this historical sketch commenced so many years ago. We can but think somewhat of our own personal regrets in the matter, but most of all we think as we write of the deep sorrow it would have caused him whose work this book is. His efforts would have been tireless and unceasing to prevent this act; he would have seen in it no possible good, but every possible ill. Had he lived until the day of its completion, that would

have been one of the saddest of his long life, and the fact that the house in which he was born stands not in the old town, but in the new, would have deepened and intensified his sorrow. He loved every inch of the great town's territory as a *whole*, and to divide it asunder would have savored of cruelty to him; and though he would have been glad that the portion in which he for the most part lived — where his personal interests were most deeply centred — still retains the well-loved name, the fact could never have brought to his mind any adequate compensation for the change which he would have looked upon as one promising only irreparable deterioration and loss. Since it was so to be, we can but rejoice for his sake that his hand, which penned so many of these lines with pride and pleasure, was spared the pain of making such an ending to his work, and that this deed was not done until his voice, always raised in urging forward everything that would benefit the town so dear to his heart, had been silenced in the grave.

CHAPTER VII.

THE CIVIL WAR. — PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWN. — EXPERIENCES AND REMINISCENCES OF SOLDIERS, ETC.

APRIL, 1861, saw the opening act of a great drama, the greatest of modern times. Rebel guns opening fire upon Fort Sumter gave the signal, and the curtain rose. Four years this play was acting, one grand scene after another forming itself upon the stage before the eyes of an observant world. April, 1865, saw the closing act. The sword of one great general, offered by him to another, gave the signal for the curtain to fall. The awful tragedy was ended, and again, as before in the days of our forefathers, all our people were free. Even the children of that day can recall how the booming of those first guns startled the whole land. Through its length and breadth the echoes rolled, sounding their evil tidings, and from every section of the North and every station in life men hurried to offer themselves both to do and to die for their imperiled country. As in the days of the Revolution the men of our town were foremost in opposing oppression and wrong, so now when danger threatened the Union they responded promptly to the call for help. Scarcely had the echoes of those cannon died away when our citizens took measures to assist in maintaining the existing government.

The selectmen of the town at that time were H. N. Daggett, A. H. Robinson, and Lewis L. Read. They issued a warrant for a town meeting, which bears date April 24th, 1861, in which one of the articles is to ascertain whether the town will do anything for the men who may be called to enter upon "actual service in the defence of our country, in addition to what is offered by the United States." A town meeting was held May 3d, and the following article was passed: —

ARTICLE II. "Voted that the treasurer of Attleboro' be authorized to borrow the sum of Ten Thousand Dollars, ($10,000) to be appropriated for military purposes as far as required. That from the above sum those men who enlist in this town and are called into actual service, shall be paid a bounty of Fifteen Dollars, ($15.00) and Fifteen Dollars a month in addition to the sum to be paid by the United States; and that each man who is accepted for service shall be paid Ten Dollars a month while drilling, and shall be furnished with such uniform as the military authorities require."

A warrant bearing date May 17th was issued, in which one of the articles

was to see if the town would appoint a committee to appropriate the military fund which had been raised. Agreeably to the call a town meeting was held May 25th. Among the votes taken at that time was the following: —

ARTICLE V. "Voted and chose the Selectmen a Committee to appropriate the Military Fund raised under a vote of the town on the third day of May, 1861."

In a warrant dated June 4th, 1861, were the following articles: —

ARTICLE II. "To see if the town will vote to furnish each volunteer in addition to the garments already furnished, one Flannel Blouse, Fatigue Cap, a Havelock, Eye Protectors, and one pair thin Pants, agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE III. "To see if the town will vote to furnish a drum and fife for the musicians of the Company, agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE IV. "To see if the town will vote to uniform the Commissioned Officers, and furnish them with Regulation Swords, Pistols, and such other equipments as they require for service, agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE V. "To see if the town will vote to instruct the Selectmen to pay the Volunteers while drilling, agreeably to a vote of the town passed on the third day of May last, agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE VI. "To see if the town will vote to raise a committee to carry into effect the foregoing provisions, and authorize them to draw upon the Military Appropriations for the expenditures."

The town meeting was held June 12th, and the selectmen were instructed "to furnish such additional items of uniform" as they could legally do under the appropriation. Articles III and IV were dismissed. The selectmen were further instructed to pay the men at the rate of ten dollars a month while drilling, and they were the committee chosen to carry these votes of the town into effect.

Previous to this time, in response to President Lincoln's Proclamation of May 3d, 1861, a company had been formed in this town, the enlistment being for three years — or more — from the time of being mustered into service, which was June 15th. This was Company I, Seventh Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. For a month these men had been drilling, paying from their own pockets for instruction, two "Boston Cadets" being hired to come to town for that purpose. The officers were: captain, John F. Ashley; first lieutenant, William W. Fisher; second lieutenant, Charles B. Des Jardins; third lieutenant, Eben L. Sylvester; sergeants, E. E. Kelly, Baylies B. Richards, P. M. Whiting, William H. Wade; corporals, John E. Paige, John N. Hall, James M. Day, Charles W. Snell, and eighty-five privates, only two of whom were from another town.

In August, 1861, a warrant was issued, in which it was suggested that the town vote upon the question of aiding the wives, children, and parents of volunteers, both in the militia and in active service, when they were in need of such aid, also as to the propriety of extending such aid to other relatives

in case of their dependence upon the volunteers. At the town meeting held September 5th it was voted to authorize the treasurer to anticipate the taxes to be levied and borrow a sum of money sufficient to aid wives and children and others dependent upon the volunteers, both in the militia and in active service.

In 1862 the selectmen were H. N. Daggett, A. H. Robinson, and J. A. Perry. In July of that year a warrant was issued, calling upon the citizens to meet and decide what bounty should be offered to encourage enlistments to fill the quota of the town under the President's then recent call for more troops, to decide upon the manner of furnishing these bounties, and "to see if the town will vote to pay their Volunteers who enlisted in June 1861, to fill up Co. I, 7th. Reg. agreeably to a petition."

The town meeting was held July 21st, when it was voted "to adopt the following Resolutions offered by Hon. John Daggett."

Resolved; — That we the inhabitants of Attleborough, fully appreciating the value of the free institutions under which we have so long lived and prospered, and alive to the dangers which threaten the existence and dismemberment of the Republic, are ever ready to do our part in sustaining those institutions and transmitting them unimpaired to those who shall come after us.

Resolved; — That we deem it our duty to take immediate measures to furnish the quota of Volunteers for this town under the recent call of the President of the United States.

Therefore resolved; — That the Selectmen be, and they are hereby authorized and instructed to pay from the Treasury of the Town a bounty of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) to each and every person who shall enlist in this town as a Volunteer in the Service of the United States, under the late call of the President, and shall be duly enrolled and accepted as such.

Resolved; — That the Treasurer of the Town be, and he is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of Six Thousand Three Hundred Dollars ($6,300) for this purpose, and to give his notes therefor.

"Voted to authorize the payment of Fifteen Dollars bounty to those who enlisted from the town to fill up Co. I. 7th Reg. in June 1861, if they are still in the service, or have been honorably discharged." It was also voted that the treasurer should borrow a sufficient sum of money to carry these measures into effect, and that a committee of nine men, three from each part of the town, should be chosen to assist the selectmen in recruiting. This committee were the following gentlemen: Willard Blackinton, E. Ira Richards, Elisha G. May, L. W. Dean, L. W. Daggett, H. K. W. Allen, Ira M. Conant, Stephen Richardson, Stephen A. Knight.

"Voted to request the Selectmen to extend aid to those sick soldiers who have been discharged from service."

"Voted the thanks of the meeting to Hon. John Daggett, for his address and services on this occasion."

"Voted that H. N. Daggett be a committee to have the proceedings of this meeting published in the *Union Gazette and Democrat*."

It soon became evident that a higher bounty must be offered, to enable the town to supply the necessary quota, and a town meeting was called for

August 6, 1862. It was then voted to offer a bounty of $200,000 and the treasurer was authorized to borrow the necessary sum of money. This bounty was to be paid to all who should enlist "on or before the 15th day of August." The selectmen were authorized to see that these measures were effected, and instructed to pay no bounties later than the date appointed. It was also voted "to choose a Finance Committee of three," and Ezekiel Bates, L. W. Dean, and E. Ira Richards were the gentlemen chosen.

August 14, 1862, the following warrant was issued: —

ARTICLE II. "To see if the town will vote to pay a bounty of One Hundred Dollars to each inhabitant thereof who shall volunteer and enlist into the service of the United States on or before the first day of September next, towards filling up the quota of said town under the present draft of the President for Three Hundred Thousand nine-months men; agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE III. "To see if the town will vote to pay a gratuity of One Hundred Dollars to each inhabitant thereof who enlisted in Co. I., 7th Mass. Reg. and is now in the service of the U. S., or to his family if deceased before or since his honorable discharge; agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE IV. "To see if the town will vote to pay a gratuity of One Hundred Dollars to each inhabitant thereof who has enlisted in any other Mass. Reg. and to his family or those dependent upon him for support, if deceased before or since his honorable discharge; agreeably to a petition."

ARTICLE V. "To see if the town will vote to authorize their Treasurer to raise sufficient money for the town, and to transact such other matters and things as may be required to carry into effect the above articles."

At the town meeting held August 23d, it was voted to pay the men who should enlist for nine months before September 1st, the bounty of $100. Frank S. Draper and L. T. Starkey were chosen a recruiting committee for these nine-months men. Article III was referred to the military committee which had been chosen. Article IV was also referred to some committee to report at some future time and place. The treasurer was authorized to borrow such sums of money as should be needed to pay the bounties for these nine-months men and "to pay all bills for examining recruits, and charge the same to the Military Account." Some resolutions presented by Mr. Lyman W. Dean were adopted, and a copy of the same ordered to be sent to the Captain of Co. I, and to be printed in the Taunton *Gazette and Democrat*. These resolutions were as follows: —

Resolved; That we the Citizens of Attleboro' in town meeting assembled do highly appreciate the Military Services of the members of Co. I, 7th Mass. Reg.; that we remember with gratitude that they promptly responded to the call of our country, when the shrill clarion of war sounded to arms for the purpose of crushing out a wicked rebellion.

Resolved; That we hold in grateful remembrance the sacrifices which they made when they left behind them the loved ones at home, and all the endearing associations that clustered around the domestic altar, and exchanged these comforts and pleasures for the stern duties of the camp and the battlefield.

Resolved; That we hold said Co. in grateful remembrance and that we will do what we can by our influence and means to encourage their hearts and awaken in their bosoms the true fire of patriotism which they rightfully inherit from a noble ancestry.

Resolved; That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the Acting Captain of Co. I, and published in the Taunton *Gazette*.

A warrant with various articles was issued September 11th. The questions arose as to the number of men (if eighty-three) to whom the hundred-dollar bounty should be paid, as to instructing the treasurer to arrange for the necessary funds, and as to instructing the selectmen to pay the recruiting and other necessary charges and collect the amount from the State. Several of the articles of the above-mentioned warrant were dismissed, but the town voted "to instruct the selectmen to pay the bounty to the nine-months volunteers to the number of thirty-five as the quota of the town."

During this spring and summer a company of nine-months men had been forming in town. There were seventy-six members exclusive of commissioned officers, and they were claimed by the city of Boston as a part of its quota. This company went into camp at Boxford, this State, and there on September 18th, 1862, they elected their officers: captain, L. T. Starkey; first lieutenant, F. S. Draper; second lieutenant, E. S. Horton; sergeants, H. A. Burchard, J. H. Godfrey; corporals, H. S. Adams, S. G. Bassett.[1] September 23d they were mustered into the service of the United States and organized as Co. C, 47th Reg. Mass. Vol. Infantry.

The selectmen for 1863 were H. N. Richardson, A. H. Robinson, and J. A. Perry. In July of that year came an order from the War Department for a draft. This town was in the second district, and the draft took place at Taunton. Attleborough was the first town called on the drafting for subdistricts. Four hundred and four ballots were put into the box, and from these one hundred and twenty-one were to be drawn. Of this number fifty-three were exempted under the law. The names of these men will be found in the succeeding chapter.

A warrant for a special town meeting was issued July 27th, 1863, containing the following articles: —

Article II. "To see what action the town will take with regard to reimbursement by the State of bounties paid to volunteers as provided in Chapter 218, of the Acts of the Legislature, approved April 29, 1863."

Article IV. "To see if the town will vote to aid the families of drafted men, as provided in Chapter 176, of the Acts of the Legislature, approved April 23, 1863."

Article V. "To see what measures the town will adopt for rendering assistance to such of our citizens as may be called into the service of the United States under the Act of Congress approved March 3rd, 1863, in such

[1] The remaining sergeants and corporals were not found on the list of soldiers as from this town.

manner as may be deemed expedient, and also to their families while they may be absent in said service. Also to take any legal measures that may be deemed expedient to carry any vote the town may adopt in relation thereto into effect; agreeably to a petition."

The town meeting was held August 3d, and under Article III the following resolution was passed: —

"Resolved; That the town elect to raise and pay its proportion of the tax provided in Chapter 218 of the Acts of 1863, in accordance with the 9th section of said Act.

"Voted that the town furnish aid to the families of drafted men as provided in Chapter 176 of the Acts of the Legislature approved April 23, 1863.

"Voted to dismiss Article V from the warrant."

November 18th, 1863, Captain Everett S. Horton was appointed "Recruiting Officer for the 58th Reg. of Infantry" (3d Veterans) by order of "His Excellency, John A. Andrew, Governor and Commander-in-Chief" of this State. Forty-nine men enlisted in town in this regiment, thirty-seven of them in Co. C, of which Captain Horton became chief officer.

The same selectmen were chosen for 1864. March 29th of that year a town meeting was held, at which it was voted to refund the money subscribed by citizens for recruiting purposes, and that the treasurer should be authorized to borrow sufficient sums to carry the vote into effect.

April 4, 1864. At a town meeting lawfully warned it was voted "that the town raise a sufficient sum of money by taxation, to be applied under the direction of the Selectmen, in aid of, and to procure its quota of Volunteers under the call of the President, dated March 14, 1864: Provided that the amount of money so raised and applied, shall not exceed the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars for each Volunteer duly enlisted and mustered into the service of the United States, as a part of its quota."

"Voted that the Selectmen be, and they are hereby instructed to cause the amount of money so raised and applied, to be assessed upon the inhabitants of the town in the annual assessment for the current."

"Voted that the treasurer be instructed to borrow a sufficient sum of money, on temporary loan, (and issue notes of the town therefor,) to carry out the foregoing vote, and hold the same subject to the orders of the Selectmen for this purpose."

"Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to act as recruiting agents in filling the quota of the town under the present call, and that they be authorized to employ such means as are necessary to accomplish the purpose."

At a special town meeting lawfully warned and held May 24th it was voted to reimburse the subscribers to a recruiting fund raised after the call of the President, February 1st, 1864, for 200,000 troops, and the treasurer was authorized and instructed to take proper means to pay the necessary sums to the citizens. At the same time the town took the following actions: —

"Voted to choose a Recruiting Committee of three persons to assist the Selectmen in filling up the quota of the town. Chose H. N. Daggett, J. R. Bronson, G. D. Hatch."

"Voted that the Recruiting Committee be instructed to fully investigate the matter of the deficiency of the credits to the quota of the town."

"Voted that the Selectmen be instructed to cause the amount voted this day to be reimbursed, to be assessed upon the inhabitants of the town in the annual assessment of the current year, provided it can be legally done, and not to exceed Three Thousand Five Hundred Dollars, or the amount reimbursed."

A warrant was issued June 6th, 1864, and the town meeting was held June 14th. At this time the joint committee appointed at the previous meeting made their report as follows: —

The committee proceeded to Boston, and ascertained that the deficiency of our quota under the three calls, was 25 men, according to the account as kept by the Provost Marshal, and that a draft had actually been made for that number. After making up our account and comparing it with the Muster Rolls at the Adjutant General's office, we discovered that the names of eleven men had not been passed to our credit. We presented our account to the Provost Marshal, claiming additional credits for that number, and succeeded in having the allowance made, thus reducing the actual deficiency to 14 men. To cancel this balance and fill the quota, the committee have paid the commutation of six men at $300 each, and of one man in part $175, making $1975, out of the funds reimbursed to subscribers. The committee have also recruited and obtained credit for 10 1-3 volunteers, which together with the 11 additional credits makes 28, leaving a surplus of 3 towards another call.

"Voted to accept report of committee." It was also voted that the town should reimburse to the subscribers to the recruiting fund a sum not to exceed $125 to each volunteer, provided the subscribers should order the sum to be held by the treasurer subject to the order of the selectmen, to be used to obtain volunteers, should future calls for troops be made. The selectmen and treasurer received the proper authority to cause this measure to be carried out, and the town also voted that the committee of three chosen should be "a Recruiting Committee to act in conjunction with the Selectmen."

A legally warned town meeting was held August 2d, 1864.

"Voted that the town raise a sum of money not to exceed One Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars ($125) per man, to procure the quota of the town under the last call of the President of the United States, dated July 18, 1864, for 500,000 troops."

"Voted that the sum of money necessary to carry the above vote into effect, be assessed in the annual tax of 1864, and the treasurer be authorized to borrow money in anticipation of receipts from the same."

A special town meeting was held November 19th, 1864, to hear a report of the recruiting committee. The "majority report" was made by five of the six gentlemen forming that committee, and following are some extracts from it: —

"The committee finding it impossible to obtain recruits at home except at

most exorbitant prices, and learning that there was a prospect of obtaining them at Washington and vicinity at very low rates, met and chose Mr. George D. Hatch, and Dr. J. R. Bronson as a sub-committee and as agents of the town to proceed to Washington at once, and recruit our town's quota, upon the best terms possible." At this meeting it was voted "to pay Messrs. Hatch and Bronson their traveling expenses, and other proper expenses, and a reasonable compensation per day for their services; and Messrs. Hatch and Bronson accepted the proposition and proceeded at once to Washington." They met with but little success, as the Secretary of War had issued an order forbidding agents from the States to recruit in the District of Columbia, and Dr. Bronson returned home. Mr. Hatch, having learned that men could be obtained at the front, secured the proper pass and proceeded to the Army of the Potomac at Petersburg (on his own account), where he engaged sixty men and had them mustered into service to the credit of the town. Returning to Washington, he telegraphed for $9,000, which was sent him by the committee. Then he returned home, subsequently, however, making three other trips for recruiting purposes. From this time complications seem to have arisen as to the number of men, the charges for them, etc., all of which matters are set forth at length by the committee. Upon the presentation of Mr. Hatch's claim for enlistment bounties and his services in obtaining the same, the committee agreed that it was exorbitant in its amount and therefore in violation of his agreement with them, and they referred the entire matter back "to the town for their consideration and disposal." This report was dated November 19th, 1864, and signed by H. N. Richardson, A. H. Robinson, J. A. Perry, H. N. Daggett, J. R. Bronson.

The minority report was also presented to the town at this meeting, and in it Mr. Hatch gave an account of his work upon the trips made for the purpose of recruiting soldiers, giving the number of men obtained, circumstances, etc., detailing his reasons for actions taken, stating clearly the position he had taken and his reasons therefor, and offering to submit the decision in the matter to a committee of disinterested men or to a court of law. This report was signed by George D. Hatch. This matter remained unsettled for several years, but was finally adjusted. Further details would be of no special interest, and enough has been said to explain the presence of "Regular Army" soldiers credited to our town, for whose services considerable sums of money were paid.

December 19th, 1864, the President issued a call for 300,000 troops, and a town meeting was called to take necessary action on the matter.

January 21, 1865. "Voted that the Recruiting Committee be, and are hereby instructed, to use whatever money or moneys they may have in the Town Treasurer's hands, subject to their drafts, to procure volunteers in anticipation of a call from the President for men."

The selectmen for 1865 were Willard Blackinton, A. H. Robinson, and J. A. Perry. The annual town meeting was held April 3d.

"Voted that the Treasurer be authorized to borrow money to continue the payment of aid to families of volunteers. Voted to raise Three Thousand Dollars ($3,000) to be applied in part payment of the indebtedness of the town on Military Account."

A town meeting lawfully warned was held April 2d, 1866. "Voted to continue the payment of state aid to the families of volunteers." A warrant dated March 21st, 1867, contained an article with reference to appropriating money to pay men who were drafted and furnished substitutes for themselves. At the meeting held April 1st it was voted to discharge that article from the warrant and to refer the continued payment of State aid to families of volunteers "to the judgment of selectmen."

At the annual town meeting held April 6th, 1868, it was voted "to continue to pay State aid to the families of soldiers in accordance with the provisions of the Laws of the Commonwealth." A meeting was called during the same month to see if the town would vote to pay a balance due to members of Company I who enlisted prior to May 23d, 1861, but no action was taken. A special meeting was called for May 4th, at which the following action upon this matter was taken: "On motion of L. W. Dean it was voted: That the members of Co. I, 7th Regiment, Mass. Vol. who enlisted in the service of the United States, and the widows, fathers, and mothers of said soldiers who died in said service, who enlisted prior to May 23d, 1861, be paid the balance due each of them for their first three months service agreeably to a vote of the Town, and the Law of the State passed May 23d, 1861. Amended as follows and voted: That all honorably discharged members of Com. I, Seventh Reg. Mass. Vol., who were or are citizens of Attleboro', and who enlisted in the service of the U. S. prior to May 23d, 1861, and the widows, fathers, and mothers of any of said soldiers who died in said service, be paid the balance due each of them for their first three months' service, agreeable to a vote of the Town, and the Law of the State passed May 23d, 1861."

"On motion of F. G. Whitney it was voted that a committee of three be appointed by this meeting to ascertain who the members are, also the amounts due them, and that Charles Faas and John C. Thayer be included among said members. Voted that the committee be appointed by nomination. L. W. Dean, J. R. Bronson, and H. N. Daggett were nominated, and by vote declared elected."

Annual town meeting for 1869, held April 5th, "Voted to pay State aid to the families of disabled soldiers as last year."

Annual town meeting held April 4th, 1870, "Voted to pay State aid as last year."

The following records may be of interest to some persons as reminders of occurrences during the war, and they are therefore given.

We the undersigned who have subscribed and paid to the fund to aid in procuring the quota of Attleborough under the call of the President for 500,000 additional troops dated Oct., 1863, and Feb., 1864, hereby authorize and order the Treasurer of the town, in case the amount we voluntarily contributed to promote enlistments should be ordered to be reimbursed to us by vote of said town, under a Statute approved March 18, 1864, to pay said amounts to the Selectmen or other recruiting officer, or officers legally appointed for the town, to obtain the quota of the town under the last call of the President for 200,000 more troops, and this order with the receipts of the recruiting officer or officers shall be your vouchers therefor.

James H. Horton,	Albert C. Jillson,	Geo. F. Knowles,
F. W. H. Knowles,	Albert A. White,	J. Claxton Wightman,
D. O. Stanley,	Eliphalet White,	Isaac Draper,
Arnold Jillson,	William P. Shaw,	John Doran,
	George W. Sadler,	A. M. Read.

Another paper similar to the above, bearing date June 7, 1864, was prepared, in which the call of Oct. 17, 1863, for 300,000 troops only is mentioned, and the subscribers authorize the treasurer to pay the money to the selectmen or recruiting officers, in anticipation of a future call. This was signed by the following citizens: —

A. M. Everett,	Addison M. Knight,	John Cooper,
G. A. Dean,	C. B. Des Jardins,	E. Sanford,
O. S. Thayer,	P. H. Short,	James L. Briggs,
F. Robbins,	W. S. Lincoln,	Albert E. Briggs,
A. F. Lee,	H. S. Adams,	A. S. Blackinton,
A. Robbins,	E. Bartley,	Wm. P. Shaw,
J. Sweet,	W. E. Robinson,	J. H. Sturdy,
H. A. Capron,	J. M. Cummings,	E. S. Capron,
Peter Nerney,	C. H. Sturdy,	S. W. Carpenter,
Nelson Smith,	George W. Handy,	N. J. Smith,
Mace B. Short,	D. Claflin,	Caleb E. Parmenter,
Frederic D. Bliss,	B. A. Cummings,	Arthur B. Carpenter,
John Dennis,	F. L. Cummings,	Z. B. Carpenter,
George W. Curren,	S. E. Briggs,	H. D. Parmenter,
George M. Leonard,	Jacob Briggs,	Dexter Parmenter,
George W. Lee,	Israel N. Williams,	S. A. Knight,
Charles E. Bliss,	Jonathan Fuller,	A. Chatterton,
Hiram Jones,	N. H. Bliss,	Michael Mc——,
Horace G. Cutting,	G. N. Bacon,	Edward Corbett,
David L. Tucker,	William Bowen,	Nelson Briggs,
Nelson Carpenter,	A. E. Walton,	Elisha E. Wilmarth,
J. B. Briggs,	B. B. King,	Benjamin Bowen,
Samuel Bromley,	G. R. Adams,	Seabury W. Bowen,
Cyrus Briggs,	Abner Witherell,	Simeon Baker,
Joab Briggs,	Darius Briggs,	Abner Witherell, Jr.
Milton Freeman,	G. H. Cummings,	Jonathan Follett,
Joseph H. Witherell,	G. D. Hayward,	R. Thayer,
B. C. Ingalls,	H. N. Daggett,	Geo. O. Dunham,
G. J. Ingalls,	A. Capron,	Wm. M. Fisher,
James Mugg,	S. B. Staples,	Ela Door,
William Slater,	Edwin E. Weaver,	Hiram Fisher,
B. Harvey,	Chas. A. Weaver,	Thomas Fuller,
	Patrick Butler,	H. M. Daggett.

Vouchers on file on account of Reinforcements of Bounty to Attleborough.

The number of men enlisted from the town in three years service is 320.

The aggregate bounty paid is $20,505. A bounty of $15 has been paid to 107 volunteers. A bounty of $300 has been paid to 63 — total 170.

The number of men enlisted in 9 months service is 51. Amount of bounty paid, $5,100.
The City of Boston has paid 20 of the no. $2,000.
No private associations have paid bounty in this town.

Signed, H. N. DAGGETT,
Chair.' of Selectmen.

Attleboro', Jan. 1st, 1863.

The whole number of men enlisting in the town of Attle'o' under call of the President for troops for nine months service is sixty-five (65) prior to the 25th day of Sept. 1862.

Signed H. N. DAGGETT, *Selectmen of*
J. A. PERRY, *Attleborough.*

Attleborough,
Sept. 27, 1862,
Enlisted in Co. " C." 47th. Regiment.

Mayor's Office, City Hall,
BOSTON, October 8, 1862.

This certifies that there has been enlisted in the 47th Reg. — Mass. Militia — men whose names are hereunto annexed belonging to the town of Attleborough (whose quota has been duly filled) for the quota of the City of Boston, under the draft, by order of the President, for 300,000 Militia.

If another draft should be ordered, and these men claimed by the said town of Attle', for their quota, it is understood and agreed that the said City of Boston shall be refunded any bounty which may have been paid by the City of Boston, otherwise they shall remain a part of the quota of the City of Boston.

Signed JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN,
H. N. DAGGETT, *Selectmen* *Mayor of Boston.*
A. H. ROBINSON, *of*
J. A. PERRY, *Attleborough.*

Mayor's Office, City Hall,
To the Selectmen of Attleboro' BOSTON, October 27, 1862.

Gentlemen; It appears by the returns to the Adjutant General's office, that the City of Boston does not receive credit for sixteen out of the forty-seven men reported as having been transferred from Attleboro'. Please call at this office as soon as possible, in order that the matter may be adjusted. I am etc.

JAMES M. BUGBEE,
Mayor's Clerk.

CITY OF BOSTON,
Mayor's Office, City Hall, Nov. 25, 1862.

Sir: It appears by a statement from the Adjutant General that he has withdrawn 25 men transferred by you to the quota of the City of Boston. Please furnish information to this office forthwith. as to whether you propose to recall these men and refund the bounty paid by this City, or make up the number by new enlistments. If any are to be recalled, you will please designate them by name.

JOSEPH M. WIGHTMAN, *Mayor.*

To Chairman of the Selectmen.

Mayor's Office, City Hall,
BOSTON, Jan'y 27, 1863.

Received of Mr. H. N. Daggett, Chairman of the Selectmen of the town of Attleborough, twenty eight hundred dollars, being the amount paid by the City of Boston for twenty eight men, who are hereby re-transferred to the said town as a part of its quota, in conformity with the agreement accompanying their original transfer to the quota of Boston, dated Oct. 8, 1862.

F. W. LINCOLN, Jr.
Mayor.

The number of men in Company I to whom the sum of $23.75 was given as additional pay, those who enlisted at an early date, was sixty-six. In 1861 the number of families assisted was fifty or fifty-two.

These records of the war are very incomplete, for they show only the outline of the work accomplished by our citizens at home and nothing of what was done by our soldiers in the field. It must always be deeply regretted that someone connected with the public work of the town did not realize the importance of keeping full accounts of the actions of those stirring times as they were transpiring. Such accounts would be of great interest not only to the actors themselves now at the close of a quarter of a century since the events took place, but of ever increasing interest and importance to the coming generations, who must learn by records or tradition of what their fathers did to preserve the union of our great country.

We have seen how prompt our men were in avowing and proving their patriotism in the days of the war, and the women of our town were equally so. They freely gave of their best to their country, bravely bade Godspeed to husbands, brothers, and sons as they left their homes, and then set to work with willing hands, though aching hearts, to furnish such comforts as they might to those who had gone to serve in the field.

At a town meeting held May 3d, 1861, the following communication was presented: —

The ladies of Attleborough wait only an opportunity of testifying their deep interest in the cause of freedom, and their earnest faith that our flag shall be kept unsullied. They rejoice that the present crisis has proved beyond doubt that brave, unselfish heroism still exists in our land, roused by no pulse of passion, but beating with the calm, determined will that treachery has roused, and only victory shall appease. Their wishes and sympathies are with our brave troops, and in preparing clothing for those who go from their midst, they offer speedy, cheerful, and zealous hands.

Abby W. Capron,	Mrs. Cherra M. Blackinton,
Molina S. Capron,	Mrs. Lydia S. Bliss,
Mary J. Capron,	Mrs. Ann J. Hodges,
Mrs. Angelina Daggett,	Miss Sabra C. Peck,
Mrs. Lucy F. Daggett,	Miss Sally M. Peck,
Mrs. Sally Daggett,	Miss Nancy M. Drown,
Mrs. Lydia M. Peck,	Miss Sarah F. Drown,
Mrs. Rebecca C. Blackinton,	Mrs. C. J. Holman,
Mrs. Mary D. Richardson,	Mrs. M. Dean,
Mrs. Harriet A. Blackinton,	Miss Mary A. Wheelock,
Miss Lizzie C. Blanding,	Mrs. Emily E. Cooper,
Miss S. J. Mann,	Mrs. Clarissa Blackinton,
Miss Lizzie W. Martin,	Mrs. C. E. Blackinton,
Mrs. A. Allen,	Mrs. P. F. Blackinton,
Mrs. C. F. Bronson,	Miss Belle Capron,
Miss Lizzie Thompson,	Miss Sarah S. Kelly,
Miss Mary McClatchy,	Miss Mary Nerney.

At the same town meeting the following vote was adopted: —

"Voted to present a vote of thanks to the Ladies of Attleboro, for their kind assistance offered to prepare clothing for those who may leave this town to serve their Country, and record the same with names attached."

Just as our men worked all through the war with unflagging zeal, so our women were tireless in their efforts to supply some of the needs of sick and

wounded soldiers in the hospitals or to add little comforts to brighten and cheer their hard, dreary lives in camp and field. Sewing societies were formed in various parts of the town: at the North, the South and West, and at the East villages; at Dodgeville; and doubtless in other villages or neighborhoods. These met at the churches or at the homes of some of the ladies and were attended by those of all ages. Children helped to pick lint or make bandages, the elders cut and made garments, "and old ladies of eighty years knitted socks at their homes." Unfortunately no records have been kept of this work, but many barrels of comfortable, well-made clothing, many thousands of yards of soft bandages, and many pounds of lint were prepared by those clever, eager hands and sent to the front.

In the East village, as no doubt elsewhere, the society was called the Soldiers' Aid Society, and it met weekly in the vestry of the church. Mrs. Belden, Mrs. Lyman Dean, Mrs. N. C. Luther, Miss Molina Capron, Miss Sally Peck, and others were among the leaders in the work. The ladies here arranged fairs, which were very successful, and several times a hundred and fifty dollars were made at these. A reading circle was in existence at that time, which met once a week, and at this the ladies always busied themselves with knitting stockings, the tops of which were red and white to form the patriotic combination.

All the work done was not done in common at the frequent society gatherings. Many who could not leave their homes had work given them to do there, and not the least earnest in this labor of love were those women upon whom, in the absence of husbands and sons, had fallen the chief burden of the support of their families. Facts and figures may and should be compiled and preserved, but the real history of such labors as these can never be written by any human pen. Who shall say, however, that they are not in every such case important factors in working out the grand result? While we honor our soldiers and citizens for their noble record of the War of the Rebellion, we will honor our women also, for "they did what they could."

REMINISCENCES, EXPERIENCES OF SOLDIERS, ETC.

A few reminiscences of the early days of the war have been obtained from some of the ladies who were engaged in the fitting out of the soldiers who first enlisted in town, and several old soldiers have kindly given us an outline of their companies' marches and actions, adding some personal experiences of their times of active service.

As has been seen, enlistments began very early. General Orders No. 8 was issued by Governor John A. Andrew on April 22d, 1861, and under these orders Company I was formed in this town. Arms being supplied, the next want was proper clothing. "The town was very liberal in furnishing all that was required" in the way of material, and the ladies agreed to make it up. In North Attleborough they met in the hall of the Masonic building;

those ladies who were able to do so, and others, took work to their homes, while the old ladies whose eyes were too dim for sewing at once began to knit socks. The uniforms were cut by a tailor. They were of gray cloth, with short, close coats, and military buttons. They were to have been trimmed with red, but that order was countermanded, as it was thought the color "might be a mark for the rebels." Mrs. Benjamin Pratt was one of those most active and efficient in that part of the town and held many meetings at her house, where subsequently undergarments, lint, and bandages were also prepared.

In East Attleborough the ladies met in what is now "Union Hall"; Miss Abby Capron was the head of the committee, a position she was well qualified to occupy, and upon her devolved the care of the undergarments. The tailor came from North Attleborough to cut the suits, and Miss Angenette Starkey took charge of the basting, which occupied her for eight days, even with the able assistance, a portion of the time, of Mrs. Stephen Pierce, whose efforts deserve special mention, because, as some may remember, it was with great difficulty that she could get to the hall to work, owing to the disapproval of some members of her family. To this day Miss Starkey remembers thankfully her "happy thought" in having the name of each soldier pinned to the various portions of his suit, in order to insure the proper coming together of the right legs, arms, and bodies. But for this, it is easy to imagine the mixtures that would have resulted, mixtures which no shaking — though as vigorous as that in the "Valley of Dry Bones" — would have been able to make right. There were several sewing machines in the hall, one a Mrs. Wilkinson's, another Mrs. Dr. Sanford's, and, if the memory of our informant is correct, the doctor himself helped to use it in the good cause. Men, women, and children were all eager to work and "did with their might *whatever* their hands found to do." Any work was man's work, any work woman's work, that either could do. The ladies, it is said, brought "spider web silk" to make the clothes with, and Major Holman went to Providence to procure the proper kind, and "Alcott Hardin was press man." The work went on here for over forty days with "the hall full in the afternoons," and the story for North Attleborough would doubtless be much the same, for nearly a hundred men had to be made ready. Besides his suit, each soldier was supplied with two flannel shirts, two pairs of drawers, socks, a havelock, and a bag "containing all the necessary articles for mending his clothing." The ladies attended also to providing the blankets. Mr. Lyman Dean presented the insignia for the caps, which were raised gold letters and were made in Taunton, and to each soldier he gave $1.50 worth of postage stamps.

Of the one hundred and five men in Company I, only nine were not of our town. The company's drill ground was on the "old Tom French place," as it was then familiarly called, on the road from the Farmers to Robinsonville,

where there was a racing track of a mile in length, and before leaving home "the company could march around the track in fifteen minutes." This shows the zeal with which our citizens went to work to make soldiers of themselves when the necessity came, and the result was certainly creditable for a month's time with men wholly unaccustomed to such exercise. Their gymnasium was in the basement of Whiting's new shop at North Attleborough.

The day before they left town for camp, Sunday, Captain Ashley preached to the company in the Baptist church, and the following morning they met at four o'clock on the common in front of the church. Many can recall the sad scenes of that early morning, for almost everybody in that part of the town came there to say "good-by" and "Godspeed." The company marched to East Attleborough, where in Union Hall they found a fine spread awaiting them, "but the boys did not feel much like eating." The clerk, Mr. Wade, was obliged to take charge of calling the roll, "the orderly sergeant not feeling it was his duty." No one can wonder at that sergeant's feeling or blame him for shifting such a duty in such surroundings, for the whole story is told in the simple phrase of the clerk himself, a man whose bravery was unquestioned, and he says: "It was the hardest work I ever did."

The Seventh went into camp first at Taunton, where they remained for a month — from June 12th to July 12th, 1861 — and where on June 15th they were mustered into the service of the United States, the regiment promising "to serve for the war, or for three or five years." Four of the companies were stationed in the old Exhibition buildings, I and K together, and just opposite them Company E, who were called "the Dorchester Owls," because they were always awake at night. The first night there was no sleep for anybody. Boots flew here and there to the accompaniment of every variety of catcall, and there was a general and lively "good time." Whenever officers called for quiet, of course a few seconds sufficed to set every man snoring lustily for the time being. All this fun, however, did not make careless soldiers, but quite the contrary. Indeed, only recently, Colonel Couch in referring to the Seventh Regiment said that its discipline and attendance to duty were the same during those few days in camp before it entered the United States service as they were afterwards, and its reputation in those respects is too well known to need comment here.

In July came orders to proceed to Washington. Very many can remember the twelfth day of that month. The hour when the train bearing the Seventh was to pass through the East village was known, and from all over the town people collected at the station. The old depot platform was crowded with pale-faced women and excited children, all eager for a handshake and good-by with those who were now to go to the front and learn the terrible lessons of real war. The train stopped some moments at a little distance from the village and then rushed swiftly through it, and the waiting

ones had only the merest glimpse of loved faces, and the echoes of a hundred voices mingled in parting phrases. This was the last seen of, alas! too many a dear one, for the Seventh reaped the reward of active service and returned from that journey with sadly thinned ranks.

In passing through Baltimore "they were obliged to load up" and had no opportunity to appease their hunger. Their first night in Washington was spent in the Capitol, where rations were served them. One of the men says: "We *slept* in marble halls, and did not need to *dream* of them." The first permanent camp of the Seventh was Camp Kalorama in the hospital grounds, where they remained until August 5th and then removed to Camp Brightwood, a temporary camp near Brightwood, on the right side of Seventh Street. Upon a certain occasion here one of the courses on the bill of fare proved to be "meat rather lively." The regimental taste not being sufficiently educated to enjoy that as an article of food, it was decided to make another disposition of it, and the Fall River companies A and B got out their drums and to the "Dead March in Saul," or something else, "buried it with appropriate ceremonies." Later the camp was changed to a spot between Seventh and Fourteenth streets, on which latter street was the hospital, then a hotel, the place being now occupied by a race ground. While here Company I had the measles and Henry Davenport died.

The winter was passed in this place and barracks had to be constructed. The trees were found in the woods not far away. Trunks were dug out, logs set down in them, and the chinks filled in with mud. Some of the ends were run up together to form peaked roofs, and the tents were opened and spread over these as a covering. The chimney to each barrack was built with logs and mud, cobhouse fashion, and had a fireplace. Each company had four buildings, and each squad had a sergeant and two corporals in it. Before the barracks were erected the men had had A tents, but after leaving camp they had only shelter tents, of which each man carried a portion. Even these they were without for some time and were obliged to form shelters for themselves as best they could by putting two of their rubber blankets together and fastening them with wooden pins.

In March, 1862, the regiment was sent to Prospect Hill, as a forward movement was expected. Here they had "rain, mud, and no shelter"; so our men occupied themselves in building huge fires of whole trees and drying one side while the other side was getting wet. The return march to camp was through mud knee-deep, with a little variety in wading Rock Creek in water waist-high. Company I, however, were most cheerfully welcomed at their barracks with roaring fires, hot coffee, etc., prepared by Mr. Des Jardins, who, being ordnance officer, had been left in camp and so "could look out for his men." We fancy some of the Company I "boys" can feel the warmth of those fires and smell the fragrant odors of that steaming coffee even now. The last of March orders were received to start for the Penin-

sula. These were obeyed so promptly that the regiment was at Columbia College too soon, so after remaining in the grounds for a time it returned to camp. The morning following their return, however, transports were taken for Fortress Monroe and the Seventh quartered at Camp Smith, beyond Hampton, near Big Bethel. The next camp was Warwick Court House, in the woods, where picket duty was done until the evacuation of Yorktown. Thence our men proceeded to the fight at Williamsburg, and the night preceding they camped in a cornfield, where the rain took a cheerful way of announcing itself by trickling down their backs.

Not long after this our informant, then the First Sergeant of Company I, had to make a little digression. After an exposure to the rain of thirty-six hours' duration, he was compelled to submit to a siege of toothache, and just about the time the southern army was evacuating its position several of his hitherto reliable dental members were by order of their commander quitting their stronghold, like the "rebs," never again to become possessed of their former fortifications.

The day following this battle of Williamsburg, which was a hard one, though the number of troops employed was not very large, the regiment had a march of twenty-five miles, a most severe one, for the day was intensely hot and many fell out by the way on account of the heat and lack of water. From this time on the regiment was actively engaged in the skirmishing line all along the Peninsula. This line of drill had been that of the Seventh, and our Attleborough "boys" were especially interested in it. Upon one occasion, when two companies had been ordered out, and one of them was too slow, it was with pride and pleasure that Company I obeyed an order from their colonel to "go out and go faster." Company I took part in the battle of Fair Oaks, which began May 31st, 1862, and this was their first experience of real fighting. At this time Lieutenant Des Jardins was commanding the company, and here Sergeant Faas lost his leg by being in what would ordinarily have been another man's place. At this battle the regiment was surrounded, and was released by General Sumner. At that time Lieutenant Whiting was with the company, and as they were preparing to camp for the night a man met him and inquired for some North Carolina regiment, so Mr. Whiting at once took him to the colonel as a prisoner. This camping-place was a meadow where the men had to lie on their guns to keep from the wet, and with only pants, shirts, and blouses. The summons to the battle had come while they were preparing dinner, and being still a little new to the usages of war they left everything as it was, taking only their guns. The battle over, they were minus coats, blankets, food, and utensils, and they had nothing to eat from Saturday morning until Sunday night, when they received "one hard tack apiece." The day following this battle they "had a chance to fight a little" from behind a railroad, and two of the company were wounded.

Soon after this they returned to a camp near the former old one, and having lost their clothes, equipments, etc., they had to be newly supplied. They remained in this place until June 25th, when they went on to the picket lines. This was the commencement of the seven days' fight before Richmond. Company I had some skirmishing and was engaged in the battle of Malvern Hill and in one cavalry encounter at Charles City crossroads. At Malvern Hill their position was on rear ground, where they could overlook the battlefield — a great plateau filled with men — and witness the fight.

After this our men camped for six weeks near Harrison's Landing in a fine wheatfield, building breastworks several times as they moved about; and here many were ill from the effects of poor water. Next by transport to Alexandria, and, horses being delayed, the officers had for a time to test their marching powers on foot with the men. Directly after the second battle of Bull Run, our company was among those who went back following Lee, but between him and Washington. They were in the battle of Antietam and lay one night on the field, where Mr. Wade as orderly sergeant "tried to waken a dead man." They followed the "rebs" for a while and finally went into camp at Downesville, Md., where they remained until October. Being ordered to move, they crossed the river at Berlin, where they had "to make the muster rolls in the night on empty cracker boxes" with dew-dampened paper, and then went on into Virginia, camping at New Baltimore.

November 9th General Burnside took command of the Army of the Potomac and soon made a move down toward Fredericksburg, and Company I was in the battle at that place on December 13th, 1862, when "Terrill was killed and Snell wounded." During this year Colonel Russell left the regiment, expressing at parting from his men many regrets at being obliged to leave them. The regiment was rather unjustly treated in this respect, having had five different colonels placed in command over it. This was one of the times when jealousy waxed rampant over the eastern army, when the chief fighting seemed to be over the question of a commander, who was no sooner appointed and ready for action than he was superseded, and the men were occupied in "waiting for orders" or trying to obey contradictory ones.

The Seventh stayed near Falmouth all the winter of 1862–63 and were in the famous "Mud March," as it was called, when the great Army of the Potomac "marched up, and then marched down again." Its next fight was the battle of Chancellorsville — second Fredericksburg. Here Company I lost its captain, Prentiss M. Whiting, and the command devolved upon Lieutenant Wade. Company D lost in this fight nineteen out of forty-one men, and Company I suffered severely. A. Bartlett Keith, Alexander Corey, Edward Dean, and Andrew Farrell were all wounded in the leg, the former severely, the latter slightly; Henry Graff, in the shoulder severely; J. Allen Tillson, in the hand slightly; John A. Whaley, in the abdomen

severely; and James B. Tisdale, mortally in the feet. This was the largest list of casualties in the company at any one time.

Marye's Heights was one of their battles; another, Salem Church, where we were repulsed. On this occasion Company I had "simply to stand still and be fired at from three sides." Their orders were to attract the attention and fire of the enemy, while others of our men should flank and surround the same, and we may be sure Attleborough boys stood their ground firmly. During this fight the entire regiment was surrounded and lost enormously. During the day following — a Sunday in May, 1863 — the Seventh were cut off entirely from our army. In the late afternoon a tremendous thunder-cloud arose. Taking advantage of this circumstance and leaving a skirmish line with a battery which opened fire upon the enemy in the dark, under cover of this friendly cloud the regiment marched away, and finally all succeeded in crossing a river in safety and reaching their own lines once more. They returned to the old camp near Falmouth and from there marched fully two hundred miles to get to Gettysburg for the famous July fights.

Their last march to reach the battlefield was one of forty miles. They had finished the regular day's march, "pitched camp and just got to bed," when the order to "pack and fall in" came, and by the mistake of the guides they were taken in the wrong direction, marching forty for thirty miles. This long march ended, they halted by the roadside, and had just made coffee when the order was received to "push on double quick for Round Top," and they did speedily push on to its foot. The Seventh belonged to the Sixth Army Corps, and the appearance of this corps "discouraged the enemy, and saved the second day's fight." The next day our company was in the reserve force, was here, there, and everywhere in the midst of the fight, but not in the front. On the "Fourth" — the closing day of the great fight — they were on the front line again, and on the fifth were "after the enemy." Later they were in Washington and still later went into winter quarters at Brandy Station on the farm of the famous unionist, J. Minor Botts. While there they engaged in the fight at Stone Mountain across the Rapidan.

In May, 1864, they were ordered from Brandy Station to the Wilderness again, where heavy fighting was continually going on, and many were killed. They were fighting day after day in woods so thick the enemy could not be seen. It was continually — "March to-night, and fight to-morrow." At Spottsylvania a charge was ordered without a skirmish line into a thick pine wood across a wet meadow full of mud and slime. Here both Union and Southern lines overlapped each other, and Company I lost several men. Later a skirmish line was formed, and the next day the pickets had a little encounter with the enemy. Our pickets at this time were kept on duty for more than twenty-four hours, Lieutenant Wade and others from Company I being among them. The former was frequently "detailed for special

duties," the performance of which one not a soldier could readily see required more than the ordinary courage and judgment. Several "big fights" occurred about this time at or near Cold Harbor and were the last in which our "boys" of Company I were engaged, for on June 15th, 1864, they left the front for some point on the James River, whence they were transported to Washington and New York. There they were greeted with an oration and no doubt the accompaniment of a generous meal. From New York they journeyed by the Stonington Line and on to Taunton, their coming a surprise, no telegram having announced it. Their discharge papers were not received until July 5th, though they bore date June 27th.

And now Company I was at home again; and how proudly and heartily they were welcomed after those three years of faithful service in fighting for "the land we love so well"! Alas that, of the hundred who went forth strong and hopeful, less than half came back whole and vigorous! Had only a half dozen returned, that would have been joy enough for the whole town to make itself jubilant; and from everywhere the people came to greet the thirty-seven and give them a public ovation, even those whose loved ones slept beneath southern skies or in the neighboring kirkyards joining in those happy services for the comrades of their dead.

In true New England fashion, with procession and music and waving banners, under the open sky, this glad reception was given. Brightly clad school children, singing joyful songs, followed by their no less happy elders, escorted "the returned soldiers" to "Pine Grove," where there was a "bake." What else could there have been for men who had not tasted a *clam* for three years? The delicious fumes of that steaming coffee in the Washington barracks at the end of the long day's march in the rain and mud were forgotten as the appetizing odors of this weed-crowned bivalve greeted their nostrils. What a contrast to their last meal together when they left the old town! Then no one could eat, now no one could help doing it; but there was enough for all, even a feast; for Attleborough bakes don't fail.

After the feast, toasts and speeches were in order, on this occasion filled with words of pride and joy, but always with a vein of sadness running through them, as thoughts recurred to absent forms and empty places. Very often during a long period of years the duties of toastmaster devolved upon the writer of this book, and it was so upon this occasion. A few of his special words of welcome to Company I have been found among his forgotten papers and are given here because they may bring to someone a pleasant memory of that now long-past happy day.

We have not come here to make formal speeches to you, but to give you a hearty welcome home, — a welcome back to old Attleborough, this spot from which three years ago you took your departure for the unknown scenes of an opening war. But how few of those who filled your ranks on that occasion, are here to-day. Is this Co. I? How many have fallen on the battlefields of their country, or died in its camps, your thinned ranks too painfully attest.

The memory of the brave dead who return not will be cherished and honored not only by their friends, but the people of Attleborough for years to come.

How sleep the brave who sink to rest
With all their country's wishes blest!

You have fought in a just cause, they have fallen in a glorious cause. Three years ago you went forth from these homes and friends in the defence of your country, for the integrity of its territory, — the perpetuity of our Union — for the security of our free institutions. This is a cause that will survive, and *will* triumph. In the name of the people of this town we again welcome you back to your friends. We thank you for the service you have done. Since you left us we have watched your course, — we have followed the fortunes of the Army of the Potomac, — we are happy to say that you have done honor to the town which you represented in that army. The great battles in which you have been engaged, Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Cold Harbor will be forever remembered, — they are inscribed on the immortal pages of history.

Thus in this rural scene, amid sounds of mirth and gladness, in the sunshine of a cloudless summer day, we leave Company I. It is our last glimpse of them all together. Well is it for them and for us all that as we think of their deeds we can say the prize for which they strove was won! As long as the great war is remembered, so long will the "7th Mass." be remembered, and we of Attleborough may speak with pride of our company's share in its brave and brilliant exploits.

During the spring of 1862, about forty-five men enlisted in this town as members of Company C, Forty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment, and went into camp at Boxford. Mr. Lemuel T. Starkey was commissioned its captain, and Everett S. Horton one of its lieutenants. These gentlemen were occupied during the summer recruiting for the regiment, joining it in the early autumn, when it was regularly mustered into the United States service. There were at the same time at Boxford some four or five other regiments called the "Merchants' Guard of Boston." It required strenuous efforts on the part of Mr. H. N. Daggett, the chairman of the selectmen, and Mr. Starkey to prevent Company C from being placed in the Fourth Regiment. At the time of its enlistments the governor was very desirous of getting that regiment off to the front at once, but these gentlemen urged the company's joining the Forty-seventh, as by the delay in so doing the matter of bounties could be satisfactorily adjusted. Bounty had been promised to the men, but at one time, a little later, the town voted not to pay any bounty money. By delaying, an arrangement was made with the city of Boston to make these payments and later to transfer these men to the credit of our town, which, as has been seen, was carried out. Had Company C joined the Fourth, not only would the men have received no bounty, but, what is far worse, the company would doubtless "have been cut to pieces, for the Fourth had a bloody experience."

From Boxford the regiment went to Readville, where it remained about two weeks, and then to New York, going into camp on Long Island at the barracks on an old racecourse there. On December 21 the men took a trans-

port for New Orleans. They were eight days in reaching Ship Island and from there went under sealed orders. They landed at Carrollton, some seven miles above the city, and went into camp at Greenville, where they had been but a few days when they were transferred to the United States barracks, seven miles below the city, and from there to the city itself, where they were placed on provost duty. At Carrollton, where the first landing was made, all the houses about were full of rebel sharpshooters during the first night, and John Sullivan, having ventured out from shelter, was shot through the leg. A little excitement occurred here, but not of a martial nature. One solitary man, a Frenchman, had remained at Carrollton in charge of his own or someone's plantation, and he had two slave girls there. Hearing an outcry, some of our soldiers entered his house and found he had whipped one of these slaves with great severity. The colonel of the Forty-seventh sent him at once to Tortugas. One can readily understand the indignation of a northern man over such a deed, especially at that time, and his promptness in using his authority to punish the offender. The dislike manifested by the people of New Orleans for northern soldiers is well known, but we are told that "in the French portion of the city — on the contrary — they were very hospitable." The Forty-seventh was kept for a number of months in New Orleans, "because it was the best drilled, best dressed, and best appearing regiment of any that went to that city."

Company C had no skirmishes in the city, but upon one occasion three companies, C among them, went up the river to Baton Rouge under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Stickney, "and there had a pretty hard skirmish." Several men were wounded, but not severely. "Hartshorn, Alger, and Bassett died at New Orleans from fever, and one man left the regiment, and has never been heard from since." Captain Starkey resigned in January, 1863, receiving from his company, and the band and line officers of the regiment, testimonials regarding his care of his men and attention to their wants, his interest in the regiment, etc., while he was a member of it. On returning home he became again a recruiting officer. He was stationed at Providence, where he had charge of raising and shipping off battalions. He commenced recruiting on the breaking out of the war, and during its continuance he enlisted 1,084 men in the States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Upon Captain Starkey's resignation, by a unanimous vote of the men Lieutenant Horton became captain of Company C and soon received his commission. Under his charge the company retained to the full its share in the excellent reputation the Forty-seventh had gained. There were but few casualties in Company C, because its term of service was almost entirely occupied with provost duty. The regiment was ordered to Port Hudson, but the fight was ended before its services were required.

These men enlisted for nine months, but they served for nearly a year. They were mustered into service September 23, 1862, and on August 5, 1863,

they left New Orleans for home via the Mississippi River. At Cairo they took cars and the entire journey east was a continued ovation. They were met at every stopping-place with enthusiasm and received the most lavish attentions from the people everywhere. They were mustered out at Readville, September 1, 1863, and were received at home with the hearty greetings of the whole town, which turned out to welcome them.

February 20, 1864, fifty-two men from this town were mustered into service in the Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, the majority of them in Company C. Several of these men were veterans, having served in the Forty-seventh. They camped at Readville, leaving there April 28, and on May 5 they reached the Wilderness, participating in that series of bloody battles. During this time some of our "boys" were taken prisoners, and from one of them we have heard of some of the expedients resorted to in the prison pens to keep up the spirits of the prisoners. Officers often clubbed together to invent stories of battles in which the northern armies always came off victorious. Such tales brought cheer and a little comfort to the privates, and when one had been often enough repeated, a fresh one was made up. Trapdoors were often cut in the prison floors, and when men were attempting to escape some comrade left behind dropped through these doors from room to room to keep up the requisite number in each at ration time to cover the absence of the runaways. Some Attleborough men died in those horrible prisons; others were enabled to conquer despair and live on through months of that awful existence until release came. Some of those who survived were completely shattered physically; some regained a fair degree of their former vigor, but all must carry through life the effects of those days of terrible suffering and endurance.

The Fifty-eighth served until the close of the war and was mustered out July 14, 1865.

In Companies I and H, Twenty-fourth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, there were a number of men from Attleborough. They enlisted in the autumn of 1861, going into camp at Readville and from thence to Fort Warren to do garrison duty "while the regiment was filling up." They were in that place when Mason and Slidell were brought there. On December 9 the Twenty-fourth started for the seat of war, accompanied by Gilmore's band, of Boston. They went to Annapolis and became a part of the Burnside expedition. The men were at Roanoke and Newbern among the earlier battles of the war, and later they were in North Carolina and its vicinity for some nine months in the Department of the South under General Hunter. They participated in the sieges of Forts Sumter and Wagner and were engaged all through the well-remembered Morris Island Campaign in 1863.

Subsequently the regiment, much reduced on account of ill-health, was sent to St. Augustine and Jacksonville, where we may hope the weary, war-worn veterans drew in health and vigor from the balmy air and cool sea breezes

and found themselves refreshed in courage for all coming encounters in that atmosphere still tinctured with the memories of valorous deeds "in the brave days of old." They were engaged in the Olustee fight, and there George Horton and John Cummings were taken prisoners and had to experience the horrors of Andersonville and Florence. At the latter place Mr. Cummings escaped by tunneling and succeeded in getting out some distance, but his attempt soon became known, and he was followed by men with dogs and recaptured. The failure of one attempt, however, only made him the more determined upon another effort to regain his freedom, even in the face of the frequent penalty, death by the guard's musket. In these efforts he was irrepressible and embraced every possible opportunity to effect his escape, though in the end it was only effected by exchange.

From Florida the men of the Twenty-fourth went back to Virginia and were attached to the Army of the James under Butler. At the end of two years the opportunity came to reënlist for bounty, an opportunity which was embraced by about half the men in the Twenty-fourth; and the regiment was re-formed in Virginia. Among those who declined reënlistment was Charles P. Dirke, who had been a soldier of the Second Empire. He came home; but the habits of the soldier proved to be too firmly fixed to be easily thrown off, and in a week's time he was in Hancock's Veteran Corps. He was one of the guard at the gallows when Mrs. Surratt was hanged and was among those who assisted to pick up the remains of the soldiers who are buried at Arlington.

Our "boys" of the Twenty-fourth were in Grant's army and had the experiences of those days of continual and brilliant fighting through the "summer of '64." They had but little fighting during the following winter, but in "the spring of '65" they were again with Grant in his last grand campaign just before the close of the war, when from the White House to the hovel the whole country watched with breathless interest for the issue. The Twenty-fourth was among the first regiments to enter Richmond after Lee's surrender and was ordered on provost duty there.

These few facts are enough to show that the services demanded of these men were varied and sufficient to prove that they were "true and tried" soldiers. Some of these men — some of ours among them — served for five years, for the Twenty-fourth was among the last, if not the very last regiment, to return home. It did not reach Massachusetts until January, 1866.

Over one half — fifty-four men — of Company H, Fortieth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, were from our town. They enlisted early in August, 1862 (about the 7th), "took the oath" at Boston on the 13th, and on the 18th went into camp at Linfield. They were "quartered in the old meeting-house" with another company from Taunton and had straw to sleep on. Attempts were made by many on this first night to get some rest, but there was "too much noise to sleep." The next camping-place was Boxford,

where they remained but a short time. They were regularly mustered into the United States service September 1st, 1862, and on the 8th they left for Washington. They reached their first camp there at Fourteenth and Allen streets on a very hot day. The men "were marched fifteen miles with full knapsacks, and many fell out." They lay down on the red clay, glad of any sort of a resting-place, and in the night a shower came up. The men were so tired that they slept; but in the morning guns, etc., had to be dug up out of the mud, while the river running hard by, proving to be of the same bright color as the clay, gave no very encouraging prospects for immediate cleanliness.

September 25th, says Mr. Everett B. Bliss' diary: "Detailed for wood and water." The men had to fell big trees, rather unusual work for most of them, learning to wield an axe not being quite so important a part of the average Yankee boy's varied education as to wield with great dexterity that remarkable instrument, the jackknife. The journal for the evening of that day reads thus: "Ed. Crandall, Horton, J. Savery, are singing, 'We 're tenting tonight boys.'"

October 18th the regiment moved to Miners Hill, about fifteen miles out of the city, and went into winter quarters in stockaded tents. December 27th came the first long roll, when "all fell in, every man to arms." They had a quick march of sixteen miles in a snowstorm to Mile's Cross Roads to ntercept some cavalry. They speedily fell in to the general army custom of helping themselves to the shelter of any houses to be found. At this place Mr. Crandall was injured. They remained for three days, and then, no cavalry having been seen, it was concluded the alarm was false, and the regiment returned to camp. Among the varied records of the journal is the following: "Miners Hill. Called at midnight for *drilling* and picket duty." March 30th the men went to Vienna, another trip of about fifteen or sixteen miles, "carrying three days' rations." During this time they experienced real New England weather — snow eight inches deep and "only shelter tents for use"; so the men resorted to seeking for shelter "in every conceivable place, from a hotel to a pigsty, but singing, 'We 're marching along. We 're marching along.'" This expedition ended like the former one by a return to camp.

On June 23d, 1863, the regiment broke camp and went to join the Army of the Potomac at Yorktown. Here our "journalist" had a little personal encounter and had to cry mercy to his foe. He told a Yorktown man he had never seen an oyster too large for him to swallow and rashly, as the sequel proved, intimated rather strongly his belief that such a one could not be found anywhere. The old man accepted the challenge, took Mr. Bliss out in his skiff, picked up and gave to him an oyster which was too large to be swallowed whole; so the soldier "had to give in." If the oyster was eaten, it is certain that it was excellent. The quality of the large oysters of that

region is only equaled by their quantity and not excelled by those of corresponding size anywhere else. This statement may be made with little fear of its being challenged.

We find our men next at White House Landing on the river above Yorktown, where they reamined a week or two, and then returning to Yorktown they took transports for Washington. Reaching that city, they started at once to join Meade's army at Gettysburg; but on the way their train collided with another, and this disaster delayed them for two days and made them too late for the battle. They, however, reached Fredericksburg, where they were "within sound of the guns." From this place they were ordered to the Potomac to lay pontoon bridges for the army to cross, crossing themselves to Warrington Junction, where the Army of the Potomac went into winter quarters. The Fortieth was soon ordered to Alexandria and thence on to Fortress Monroe, landing at Newport News. The men were ordered to prepare for a long sea voyage. Just as they had their washing hung out, "everything extra being left at Fredericksburg," the long roll sounded, and as no delays in answering that call are allowed, the result was "they were an absurd looking crew." They were put upon a boat from which a thousand prisoners had just been taken, "and," the record adds, "it was not clean." This boat was their abode for four days and nights, when they reached Charleston, S. C., and landed on Folly Island.

The next day they were detailed to the front at Fort Wagner, where they met the Twenty-fourth Regiment. At this place each Regiment had to be at the front in turn two days in every week. While here Mr. Bliss and several of his comrades of the Fortieth "called upon Ed. Dean," whom, as the cook of his company, they found making doughnuts. It is perhaps superfluous, in speaking of New Englanders, to add that "a feast ensued." The Twenty-fourth at this time was in most excellent condition — completely equipped, with good uniforms, all other necessary clothing, accoutrements, utensils, etc.; while the Fortieth, as we have seen, had almost nothing. Naturally boasting obtained, followed by a lively war of words between the members of the two regiments, and particularly between our townsmen, whose opinions upon the contrasts in appearance were expressed with the utmost frankness and in most generous measure. About this time orders came to the regiments on Folly Island to the effect that after three months' drilling, etc., the best regiment among them should be mounted, as a compliment. At the end of the stipulated time it was announced that the Fortieth had "won the prize," and they were sent to Hilton Head, where they received their horses, and soon after they went by orders to Florida, "to Camp Finnigan, just out of Jacksonville." Before parting with their friends of the Twenty-fourth, they took the opportunity thus given to return the compliments which had been so freely bestowed upon them. This turning of the tables was made the most of and all debts to the Twenty-fourth paid with

compound interest. Only about a week after the Fortieth had received their horses they stormed a battery, captured three outposts, and surprised the enemy, taking them in the night. This was their initial fight on horseback, but being ordered to take the battery they proceeded to obey, though they had to ride over ditches, through woods, etc. Our narrator says: "Good for first experience." They were at this time in the far-famed "Everglades," and during the next day's march they came to Little St. Mary's River. Company H threw their guns over the river, and, being infantry, were ordered to "dismount and dislodge the enemy." Crawling through the swamp, they captured thirty-two horses and a number of men, the whole thing having been "done very quickly."

The above affair occurred February 12th, 1864. The next morning the "boys" cleaned their guns and exchanged them for Spencer rifles. The following night they were in the saddle nearly all night. Arriving at Stark the regiment halted, but a small squad, including sixteen men from Company H, were detailed to go to Gainesville and capture an engine and train of cars bearing a valuable load of cotton, about $1,000,000 worth. The enemy retreated as they advanced, so they pressed forward and took possession of the place, fully expecting the regiment would be there at night. The latter had been misled by the enemy, however, who announced that they had captured our men. Thus the little squad of men was left to its own resources in the enemy's country from eleven o'clock one morning to midnight of the following day. The few men were arranged to keep guard as advantageously as possible. The enemy came up in the afternoon, and a skirmish followed. Mr. Cummings was wounded and was taken to a hotel, where he had to be left as prisoner. A lady was boarding there who formerly lived at Bear Swamp, and she kindly cared for him, though she could not of course mention that she knew him. George Horton was taken prisoner there also.[1] During the night the enemy left. About five o'clock in the afternoon of the second day our men were again charged upon, but they met the attack gallantly and took some prisoners. They decided to evacuate their position, however, and at midnight started for Jacksonville, ninety miles away, followed by forty slaves, for whom they picked up mules here and there. They had some skirmishes on their way, but they flanked the enemy and arrived safely at Jacksonville on the 17th of February, where they were rewarded for what they had done by receiving compliments from their commanding general.

From Jacksonville these men, about fifty in number, went to join their regiment, reaching it on the 19th at Barber's Ford. The following morning

[1] Mention has already been made of these two men having been taken prisoners at Olustee. This skirmish occurred about the time of that fight. The facts as before related have been allowed to remain in the account of the Twenty-fourth, as they were given by a member of that regiment, some additions being made by others.

at seven o'clock, the Fortieth, with other regiments, started for Lake City, but found the enemy on the way at noon, and then and there began the battle of Olustee, "one of the stubbornest of all the battles," a real hand-to-hand fight, where our soldiers waited until the enemy were within ten feet of them before they rushed forward to the encounter. The enemy were at this time really victorious, "but did not know it." The Fortieth belonged to what was called the "Light Brigade," Colonel Guy V. Henry commanding. He was a leader who always said "Come," not "Go." At one time they were in line of battle, which was a *single* line, and for a moment the men seemed inclined to get nervous. Seeing this, Colonel Henry coolly stepped out in the front and gave the cavalry some drill orders to relieve their nervousness. The men at once responded, and with cheers, which the enemy mistook for greetings to reinforcements and so considered themselves beaten. That this nervousness was but momentary and had no effect upon the fighting qualities of our "boys" is well attested, for the Fortieth was complimented for both coolness and bravery at this same battle of Olustee.

Our troops after this retreated to Jacksonville, and the Fortieth went again to Camp Finnigan, where they remained until they were ordered to the Army of the Potomac. The Twenty-fourth were with them on this journey. They landed at City Point and for some days were occupied in marching up and down from place to place to mislead the "rebs." May 9th our record reads thus: "Called at 2.30 to march, went to Chester Station; tore up the track and ruined the railroad between Petersburg and Richmond, stopping communication." At this time the Eighteenth Corps went on toward Richmond, getting between that place and Fort Darling, where the enemy were massed in large numbers, and finally proceeded to Fort Darling, having several encounters with the enemy on the way. In front of this place, on May 20th, 1864, Captain Jenkins of Company H was captured; he was "wounded and missing." John C. Wilmarth and some others were captured, F. B. Bliss, Francis Doran, Edgar Freeman, and others were wounded, Parks and Slade were killed, and John O. Wilmarth was wounded. He died subsequently at Newport News. After this there came a day of both skirmishing and heavy fighting, in which several of the regiment's officers were wounded, and the command of Company H devolved upon its corporal, Job Savery. In a skirmish that day "one hundred and fifty men went out, twenty were wounded, and two killed outright." After the day was over someone said: "We have had no rations"; and John Bullock, with vigorous smackings of his lips, exclaimed: "I wish I had a piece of custard pie."

May 29th the Fortieth left Bermuda Hundreds and went to City Point. Arriving there the following morning they took transports for Fortress Monroe. The boats ran aground the next night, but got back to White House Landing. The men marched through the rest of the night, having only a short bivouac, and in the morning, as they were nearing Cold Harbor, they

met the Seventh. The order came to charge, "and the Fortieth opened the ball." Hodges, Hamlin, and Elliot were wounded, and Lieutenant-Colonel Marshall, formerly captain of Company H, was killed. "The regiment lost sixty men from a squad," and our old soldier records this as "hard fighting." The next day the fighting continued, and Lloyd Hodges was wounded. June 3d was "the heavy battle at Cold Harbor. It was short but very severe." On that day James Short, M. C. Kent, and Everett Bliss were wounded, and Lester Perkins was killed.

The Fortieth left Cold Harbor on June 13 and went to Fortress Monroe, leaving there, however, almost immediately for Richmond, as was supposed, but they "landed at Bermuda on the 14th, and went to Point of Rocks near there." They were in the charge on the heights of Petersburg — a colored regiment alongside — when two hundred prisoners, ten pieces of artillery, and some cavalry were captured. In that day's fight Company H had *ten* men on duty, and in the regiment there were *seventy-five* only, the numbers were so much reduced by the long sick list. On June 15 "twenty one guns were captured, the 40th in advance." The following night they were in line of battle all night and had some fighting. A little later they returned to Bermuda Hundreds and to their old corps, the Tenth, and were given a day of rest. At this time there was more or less skirmishing every day, and on the 24th our "boys" of the Fortieth were in more fighting. During that day some hundred and fifty prisoners were taken, "who seemed glad to get into our lines."

The Fortieth was for ninety days at Petersburg and under fire the entire time, never being out of range of the enemy's artillery. On June 30 our men had the heaviest artillery fighting they experienced. Two hundred pieces were belching fire for four hours unceasingly, and at the end of that time a charge was ordered which resulted in many casualties, several to the Fortieth. After this to Bermuda Hundreds again, and our men were allowed to rest and recruit for two weeks; then returning to the front at Petersburg they once more took their turn "in being in line." On July 30 "Burnside's Pete" was charged and the fort blown up, causing a "horrible slaughter."

The following winter the Fortieth was quartered at "Chapin's Farm" on the James River, and the "boys" spent some quiet months there. In the spring they received orders to take transports for Fortress Monroe, and they went on to Yorktown, where they "captured a train of cars containing tobacco and cotton." Then up the Potomac under the agreeable orders to convey a little excitement into one of the enemy's camps. Accomplishing this they returned to Fortress Monroe and later went to White House Landing with transports containing rations for Sheridan's cavalry "when he came around Richmond." The Fortieth marched with him to Deep Bottom and from there went to the old camp at Chapin's Farm. "In a day or two came

that grand Monday, when our men marched into Richmond, and helped to put out fires, and straighten out matters." The Fortieth was occupied in that city, remaining until it started for home. The members were mustered out June 16, 1865, at the expiration of three years of hard service faithfully and valiantly performed.

There is no difficulty in reading much between the lines of even a scanty report like the above; but, find what the imagination will, or add to the story as we may, the result will fall far short of the truth in showing the amount of labor and suffering which fell to the lot of our devoted soldiers in this war for the Union — a lot they accepted with a patience, a cheerfulness, a courage unrivaled.

When our Attleborough "boys" of the Fortieth reached the town, the ladies of the East village were holding a festival. With what pleasure and pride they invited Company H into the hall and how generously they treated every member scarce needs to be told. Whatever our ladies undertake to do is well done, and when we remember what this joyful occasion was, we are sure fair hands heaped high the plates of refreshing ice-cream and culled the choicest flowers for those blue-coated veterans. These were the last decorations the old uniforms received, and to some we are sure they were dearer far than sleeve-band or shoulder-strap, for, as dainty fingers fastened those nosegays on the worn and faded coats, shy, bright eyes and smiling lips told the tale of other victories won and other prizes gained than those of the battlefield. There was never a true soldier, least of all an Attleborough soldier, who would hesitate in his decision regarding the personal value of these two rewards. Thus the story of Company H reaches its close. The "boys" are exchanging hearty greetings with old familiar friends in the old familiar place, one sorrow only mingling with the universal joy — the thought that many who went forth three years before did not return with their comrades to join in the happy congratulations and to receive the gladsome "Welcome home."

Among the incidents connected with the war, a veteran of Company I, Twenty-fourth Regiment, relates the following. He speaks of "a series of war-meetings," which were held in town when enthusiasm was roused to the highest pitch, when men burned to show their love for their country and threw themselves promptly "into the breach." At a meeting "held at the old town house soon after the attack on Fort Sumter, John Daggett, speaking from the platform, said: 'Who will be the first to enlist?' and John Cole responded." We cannot be proud of every step in the subsequent career of this our "first soldier," for he left his company, and many months later the veteran met him in Virginia in the employ of the government, but as a wagoner, not a soldier, and under an assumed name. With the close of the war and the disbandment of the army came the governmental pardon for all neglect of duty; so this incident may safely be referred to, and we

may hear it with a smile as we recall the noble record of the great majority of our town's "boys in blue."

Another veteran recalls the friendly feeling manifested all through the conflict by both "the blues" and "the grays." He says: "There never was a war like that one. When fighting was over, if we had taken prisoners, we sat down and chatted with them, and when ration time came, we shared our meal with them, and it was so on the other side among the ordinary soldiers if they had any rations to give us." Foes to the death at the word of command, they were brothers again when bayonets were stacked.

One after another the bitter memories of those days of strife are passing away, and the people remember only the common "land of the fathers." The magazines and papers of to-day are full of reminiscences of those times, and interesting relics are coming to light, some of which have been brought to our town. One of these has recently been returned to Major E. S. Horton in a very pleasant manner. During the spring of 1864 while the Fifty-eighth Regiment — the Third Veteran — were in camp at Readville, Major Horton, then the captain of Company C, was presented with a sword and belt by his men. From camp the regiment went to join the Army of the Potomac at Bristow Station, commencing their active service in the "Battles of the Wilderness." The sword had been loaned to Sergeant Major Smith, and at the battle of Peeble's Farm, near Petersburg, he was killed while he was wearing it. Captain Horton was at that time wearing a sword belonging to the enemy, and it was on the afternoon of the day of that same battle that he was made a prisoner. He heard nothing further of the sword until November, 1886, when a letter was received by Commander D. R. Pierce, of John A. Andrew Post No. 15, of Boston, from Surgeon N. M. Ferebee, U. S. Navy, relating to it. Commander Pierce wrote to Colonel John C. Whiton, a former commander of the Fifty-eighth, now superintendent at Deer Island, and through him the fact of Major Horton's existence, etc., was made known to Mr. Ferebee. The inscription on the sword reads: "Presented to Captain E. S. Horton by the members of Company C, 58th Reg. Mass. Vol" Its restoration after twenty-two years had elapsed adds a thousandfold to its value and to its interest in the eyes of the generations to come. One of the most pleasing features of the entire occurrence is the letter which announced its return: —

OXFORD, N. C., Nov. 30, 1886.

Col. E. S. Horton, Attleboro', Mass.

Dear Sir: I send by express today the sword and belt of which I have written. I regret that I am unable to give you any history of the sword. My father was Colonel of the 4th N. C. Cav., C. S. A. I have heard him say that it, the sword, came into his possession at some fight near the end of the war. The sword would have been returned before but for my father's bad health. He died during my absence in China, and on my return I found the sword with a request that I would return it. It gives me great pleasure to do so, and should the occasion ever arise your sword and his will be found side by side, with the points towards the common enemies of our common country. Please notify me of the receipt of the sword.

Very truly yours,

N. M. FEREBEE.

The publication of the story of the sword led to Major Horton being made the recipient of another war relic. This is a soldier's cup, on which are roughly carved several letters, "4 N. C.," and below these two others, one "W." and the other apparently "I." Mr. Horton received it from Mr. Fred. A. Fry, of Providence, with the following letter: —

You can send the cup to the parties that sent you the sword. As near as I can remember the cup was given to one of the Pennsylvania Bucktail Reg. by one of the Fourth N. E. Reg. when he was dying, for kindness shown him. It was given to me by the Penn. soldier, in Fairfax Seminary Hospital, for favors I had shown him. If the N. C. regt. have a relic room, it may go to them, if not, you can keep it to remember that the hatchet has been buried.

The two grandest scenes of the closing of the war were witnessed and participated in by some of the Attleborough "boys." One of the members of Company I, Twenty-fourth Regiment, has most graphically described the sights he witnessed as he stood one day on the Square in Richmond and saw the Army of the Potomac and Sherman's Army pass through with all the accoutrements and paraphernalia of war. Artillery with shattered gun carriages and roughly mended harnesses; infantry with lustreless bayonets, torn garments, and knapsacks bursting with their hurriedly packed contents; cavalry with mud-splashed uniforms and dirt-begrimed horses; blood-stained stretchers, ambulance wagons, supply carts with cooking utensils, bummers loaded with the varied results of their raids, and the "motley crew" ever hanging on the outskirts of an army — all passed before his eyes, as they came from the long march or the battlefield, "showing what war really is." Carried along with this heterogeneous, slow-moving mass were the bullet-riddled flags and tattered ensigns that told of bloody fights and terrible death struggles; but, borne aloft as they were that day, they told too of the cessation of strife and announced the joyful tidings of victory.

A few days later, and these same battalions with burnished arms and freshened uniforms, lacking all the homely necessities of camp and field, marched proudly and jubilantly, a hundred thousand men, through the streets of Washington, saluting their commanders for the last time ere they put aside the duties of soldiers and dispersed to their homes to assume again the wonted and more congenial occupations of quiet citizens.

What we have been able to relate forms only "fugitive sketches" of our military work, but, unsatisfactory as both the sketches and the town records are, taken together they prove even to a superficial reader that Attleborough, through citizens and soldiers, acted well her part in the War of the Rebellion.

Our record during the Civil War may be placed by the side of our proud record of the Revolutionary War as an equally worthy one. We are justified in cherishing and expressing feelings of pride in the deeds of our town fathers in both the former and the latter days, and we should possess the deepest sense of gratitude to them for the noble services they performed in the purchase of our twice dearly bought liberties.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOLDIERS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

THE following list of Attleborough men who served during the war, with facts of a certain kind relating to them as far as these could be ascertained, is taken from the record belonging to Major Everett S. Horton. This record was prepared especially for him at the cost of much time and money and is doubtless the only one of the kind in existence. All the readers of this book are greatly indebted to him for this valuable result of his interest in the soldiers of our town, for without it neither the author nor the editor would have been able to present here anything like a correct or complete list of their names or a collection of facts such as follow.

SEVENTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS, COMPANY I.

JOHN F. ASHLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Captain. Resigned August 1, 1861.

ALDEN H. ALBRO. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

HARLAN P. BLISS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service. First Sergeant.

WILLIAM W. BISHOP. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged August 15, 1861, for disability.

SAMUEL P. BLISS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

JOSEPH E. BLANDING. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died of wounds September 12, 1862.

CHARLES W. BRAGG. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

JOSEPH H. BURLINGAME. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Musician. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM F. CARPENTER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

ALBERT F. CLAFLIN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

GEORGE A. CHRISTY. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Discharged November 16, 1863, by order of the War Department to enter the Navy.

HENRY N. COBB. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

HENRY W. COLE. Mustered into service, June 15, 1861. Discharged October 15, 1862, from disability caused by a wound in the leg, received in the battle of Fair Oaks. Reënlisted February 4, 1864, in Seventh Rhode Island Cavalry, Company F. Discharged November 29, 1865. Sergeant.

JOHN COLE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted October 10, 1862. Entered the service of the government under another name. Subsequently reënlisted in the navy.

WILLIAM A. COLE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged March 4, 1863, from disability.

ALEXANDER COREY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Transferred February 15, 1864, to the V. R. C.[1]

OSCAR B. CUMMINGS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service. Died February 10, 1866. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

CHARLES B. DES JARDINS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Commissioned Second Lieutenant July 15, 1861; First Lieutenant September 1, 1861.

EDWARD N. DEAN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. In 1862 Sergeant Major; November 1, 1862, commissioned Second Lieutenant; December 7, 1862, First Lieutenant. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service. Died October 24, 1873. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

JAMES M. DAY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Wagoner. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

BENJAMIN F. DAVENPORT. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged August 5, 1861, from disability.

HENRY P. DAVENPORT. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died February 22, 1862, at Camp Brightwood, District of Columbia.

JAMES DAY, JR. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

DAVID S. DEAN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Service expired March 26, 1865, when he was exchanged prisoner of war.

WILLIAM P. DONNELL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged February 17, 1863, from disability.

JOHN B. DORAN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

HALSEY W. DRAPER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged March 18, 1862, from disability.

LOWELL A. DRAKE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged September 19, 1862, from disability.

HENRY G. DUNBAR. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM E. DUNHAM. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged September 26, 1863, from disability.

NATHANIEL EMERSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM W. FISHER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Commissioned First Lieutenant. Resigned August 3, 1861.

ANDREW FARRELL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

CHARLES E. FISHER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.[2]

EZRA A. FISHER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged February 18, 1862, from disability.

LAWRENCE FLANAGAN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted April 29, 1864.

GEORGE H. FOLLETT. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

HENRY FRAWLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged August 10, 1861, from disability.

HERBERT N. FRENCH. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

ISAAC F. GILES. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. First Sergeant. Commissioned Second Lieutenant May 8, 1863. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

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[1] Veteran Reserve Corps. [2] Died at Cheyenne, Wyoming, May 10, 1889. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

GILBERT A. GOFF. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged August 5, 1861, from disability.

FREDERICK GOTTSCHALK. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged April 21, 1863, from disability.

HENRY GRAFF. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service. Died October 26, 1884. Buried in the soldiers' lot in Woodlawn Cemetery.

HENRY GREFIN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted April 27, 1864.

PETER S. GREFIN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted December 11, 1863.

DAVID E. HOLMAN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Commissioned Major of Seventh Regiment. Resigned August 1, 1861. Died December 10, 1883. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

JOHN N. HALL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. First Sergeant. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM H. HILL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died of wounds May 7, 1864. Wilderness, Virginia.

HENRY L. HAYWARD. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

ARTHUR C. HALL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged September 13, 1861, from disability.

WILLARD E. HALL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted November 3, 1862.

GEORGE L. JILLSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

JOHN JACK. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted June 18, 1862.

JOHN E. JEWETT. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

EDWARD C. KNAPP. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Member of Seventh Regiment Band. Discharged October 17, 1861, from disability.

WILLIAM H. KINGSLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 14, 1862, from disability.

ALFRED I. KEATS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

ENSIGN E. KELLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged October 15, 1862, from disability from a wound.

HERMANN G. KRAHE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted December 11, 1862.

WASHINGTON B. LLUFRIO. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged August 22, 1862. Mustered into service September 23, 1862, in Company C, Forty-seventh Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Subsequently died and was buried in Old Kirk Yard. In 1885 his body was removed to Woodlawn Cemetery.

BERNARD LOUGHLIN. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Transferred June 1, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps. Died at North Attleborough, September 30, 1885. Buried at Plainville.

EZRA LYON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged March 27, 1863. Cause, insanity.

JOHN F. MACKINSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Member of Seventh Regiment Band. Discharged August 11, 1862, by order of the War Department.

JAMES MASON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

JOSEPH MCMANUS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

ROYAL W. MOULTON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

EDWARD NELSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged August 5, 1861, from disability.

JOHN E. PAIGE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Transferred June 1, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

JOHN D. PEACOCK. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Killed May 5, 1864, Wilderness, Va.

CHARLES H. A. PERCY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted October 10, 1862.

JAMES N. PERRY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged January 24, 1864, to reënlist.

WILLIAM REMLINGER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died April 20, 1863, at Falmouth, Va.

ANDREW J. RICHARDS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged July 20, 1862, from disability.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Deserted September 1, 1862.

BAYLISS B. RICHARDS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Sergeant. Died at David's Island, N. Y., October 4, 1862.

GEORGE W. ROLLINS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service. Died January 19, 1885. Buried at Attleborough.

STEPHEN STANLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Member of Seventh Regiment Band. Discharged August 11, 1862, by order of the War Department.

DENNIS SHANNON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged October 27, 1862, from disability.

JOHN N. SMITH. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged October 9, 1862, from disability. Died June 10, 1886. Buried by William A. Streeter Post at Woodlawn Cemetery.

ARTEMAS W. STANLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died October 7, 1862, at Craney Island, N. Y.

EBEN L. SYLVESTER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged September 13, 1861, from disability.

ABRAHAM B. SAVERY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. First Sergeant. Died of wounds December 16, 1863, at Brandy Station, Va. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

CHARLES W. SNELL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Sergeant. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

THOMAS C. SWEET. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Sergeant. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

EDWARD SEEVY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Transferred September 17, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

FRANK STANLEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Musician. Discharged July 20, 1862, from disability.

JAMES W. THOMPSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Quartermaster Sergeant in 1861; commissioned Second Lieutenant December 7, 1862; First Lieutenant June 11, 1863. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

SAMUEL THOMPSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Corporal. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

CHARLES F. TERRILL. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died of wounds December 13, 1862, at Fredericksburg, Va.

JOHN J. THAYER. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged December 29, 1863, from disability from wounds.

FRANK H. TISDALE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

JAMES B. TISDALE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died of wounds May 11, 1863, at Washington, D. C.

PRENTISS M. WHITING. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. First Sergeant. Commissioned Second Lieutenant September 2, 1861; First Lieutenant July 21, 1862; Captain November 22, 1862. Mortally wounded at Marye's Heights, Va., May 3, 1863. Died of his wounds May 4, 1863.

WILLIAM H. WADE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. First Sergeant. Commissioned Second Lieutenant October 25, 1862; First Lieutenant May 4, 1863. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

JOHN F. WILKINSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Appointed Sergeant Major. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

HENDERSON H. WATSON. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged November 16,

1863, by order of the War Department. Entered the Navy and served at Lexington on the Mississippi.

JOHN A. WHALEY. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged October 7, 1863, from disability.

HENRY M. WHITE. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Discharged June 27, 1864, at expiration of service.

ALBERT G. WILSON. Mustered into service August 27, 1861. Discharged March 18, 1863, from disability. Died October 3, 1886. Buried at Plainville.

GEORGE H. WILLIS. Mustered into service June 15, 1861. Died July 8, 1862, at North Bridgewater, Mass.

FORTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS, COMPANY C.

HENRY S. ADAMS. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Corporal. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Died December 16, 1893. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

JAMES H. ALDRICH. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged June 23, 1863, from disability. Has subsequently died.

HENRY A. BURCHARD. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. First Sergeant. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Reënlisted February 4, 1864, in Company F, Seventh Rhode Island Cavalry. Commissioned Second Lieutenant. Resigned August 16, 1864. Died April 19, 1880. Buried at Medway, Mass.

SAMUEL G. BASSETT. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Corporal. Died June 29, 1863, at New Orleans, La.

THOMAS BOWEN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

DAVIS A. BURCHARD. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM CARNES. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

AHAB R. CHASE. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.[1]

DAVID COLLAR. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Mustered into service February 2, 1864, in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Subsequently killed.

FRANK W. COLE. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Mustered into service February 20, 1864, in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Discharged June 19, 1865, by order of the War Department. First enlistment was May 26, 1862, in Tenth Rhode Island Light Battery. Mustered out of service August 30, 1862. Reënlisted in Massachusetts Infantry as above seen.

LORING COLE. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.[2]

FRANK S. DRAPER. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Commissioned First Lieutenant. August 4, 1863, Captain Second Louisiana Native Guards. Died August 15, 1886. Buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

ORVILLE L. DARY. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

BENJAMIN F. EVANS. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.[3]

TISDALE E. FISHER. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Has died and is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

HENRY FRAWLEY. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Mustered into service February 20, 1864, in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Discharged March 23, 1865, from disability.

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[1] Died July, 1893. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery. [2] Died February 17, 1892. Buried at Woodlawn. [3] Died February 8, 1890. Buried by G. A. R. Post, North Attleborough.

JOHN H. GODFREY. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Sergeant. Dead. Buried Mount Hope Cemetery.

SAMUEL N. GOFF. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Dead. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

MICHAEL GORMAN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Reënlisted in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Killed at Petersburg, Va., in June, 1864.

CHARLES GOURDIER. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

EDGAR W. GUILD. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

EVERETT S. HORTON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Commissioned Second Lieutenant and Captain February 2, 1863. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Reënlisted November 14, 1863, in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Commissioned Second Lieutenant; February 10, 1864, Captain; August 8, 1864, Major; August 31, 1864, became Lieutenant-Colonel. Taken prisoner near Petersburg, Va., September 30, 1864. Confined at Salisbury, Danville, and Libby, and paroled February 22, 1865. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service as Major.

GEORGE HARTSHORN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Died July 14, 1863, at New Orleans, La. Buried near Camp Parapet.

GEORGE H. HATTIN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged November 20, 1862, from disability.

GEORGE S. HORTON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Died March 2, 1882. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

CHARLES JACKSON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

GEORGE B. JACKSON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Dead. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

DEXTER S. JORDAN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Dead. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

JAMES KELLEY, JR. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Mustered into service February 20, 1864, in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Discharged May 31, 1865, from disability caused by a wound in the hand.

BARTHOLOMEW W. LLUFRIO. See Washington B. Llufrio, Company I, Seventh Regiment.

GEORGE H. NORTON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Mustered into service February 20, 1864, in Company C, Fifty-eighth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. Died September 9, 1864, at Andersonville, Ga.

WILLIAM A. NYE. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM OCONNOR. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Died November 30, 1892. Buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Falls Village.

EDWARD D. PARMENTER. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

HORATIO N. PERRY. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

EUGENE C. PIKE. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

GEORGE R. READ. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

LEMUEL T. STARKEY. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Commissioned Captain. Resigned January 27, 1863, at New Orleans, La.

THOMAS G. SANDLAND. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. December 6, 1862, detailed on extra duty in Quartermaster Department in Banks' Expedition, by order of Brigadier-General G. L. Andrews. Rejoined his company August 18, 1863. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

EDWIN G. SHEPARDSON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Dead. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

JOHN J. SOLOMON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

AMOS C. STANTON. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged at New Orleans, La., in August, 1863, from disability.

WILLIAM N. STONE. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

EPHRAIM H. TAPPAN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service.

ROSCOE L. TUCKER. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Discharged September 1, 1863, at expiration of service. Dead. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

LORENZO J. THAYER. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Died at Cleveland, Ohio, August 16, 1863. His body was sent home at the expense of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Thacher, of that city, the former a native of this town. Buried in the cemetery in Rehoboth, near the church at Briggsville.

AUGUSTUS D. VARRAN. Mustered into service September 23, 1862. Dead.

FIFTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY C.

SANFORD B. ADAMS. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

CHRISTOPHER BALLOUF. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Died May 10, 1864, at Washington, D. C.

CHARLES H. BROTHERTON. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Missing September 30, 1864.

JAMES A. BALLOU. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Musician. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

DAVID COLLAR. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

FRANK W. COLE. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

ELIJAH T. CALLAN. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865 at expiration of service.

HUGH CARNEY. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged August 10, 1865. from disability.

MARSHALL J. CHAFFEE. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM CHAPMAN. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

ALBERT COFFIN. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service. Dead.

JOHN G. CONLY. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

JEFFREY G. DAVIS. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Sergeant. Died February 25, 1865, prisoner of war at Danville, Va.

ADOLPH DE COUPEE. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Deserted April 29, 1864.

HENRY FRAWLEY. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

MICHAEL GORMAN. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

LEMUEL GAY. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged May 25, 1865, by order of the War Department. Prisoner of war, confined at Salisbury, N. C.; paroled and returned home, and partially regained his health. He was guidon-bearer. When captured, secreted his flag and brought it home. This flag is now in possession of William A. Streeter Post, 145, G. A. R. Mr. Gay died May 6, 1877, and was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

PETER GORMLEY. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Killed July 30, 1864, at Petersburg, Va.

HENRY C. GROSS. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged May 22, 1865, by order of the War Department.

EVERETT S. HORTON. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

CHARLES HACKETT. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Transferred March 15, 1865, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

PATRICK HOLLAND. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

WELCOME A. IRONS. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged June 26, 1865, by order of the War Department.

CHARLES H. JOHNSON. Mustered into service February 10, 1864. Second Lieutenant. Commissioned First Lieutenant, March 8, 1864; Captain, August 8, 1864. Made prisoner of war September 30, 1864. Died of wounds October 27, 1864, at Petersburg, Va. Buried in a schoolhouse yard in that city.

DANIEL L. JOHNSON. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Sergeant. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, August 8, 1864; First Lieutenant, November 1, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

JAMES KELLEY, JR. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

TURNER KENNEDY. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged — absent wounded — July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

OTIS H. KNAPP. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Dead.

JAMES B. KNIGHT. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

BENJAMIN LEWIS. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

GEORGE H. NORTON. See Forty-seventh Regiment.

CHARLES NILES. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service, prisoner.

GEORGE O. PECK. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. First Sergeant. Discharged June 3, 1865, by order of the War Department.

GEORGE R. PIERCE. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

GEORGE SMITH. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

GEORGE TOURTELLOTTE. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

HORACE N. WHITNEY. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Corporal. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

HERBERT E. WHIPPLE. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Discharged May 22, 1865, by order of the War Department.

HENRY WILLIAMS. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Deserted in March, 1864.

COMPANY D.

DEANE NICKERSON. Mustered into service March 1, 1864. Died prisoner of war at Danville, Va., January 23, 1865.

COMPANY E.

ROBERT HALL. Mustered into service March 1, 1864. Discharged — as absent — July 14, 1865, at expiration of service. Lost a leg at the battle of Cold Harbor, Va. Dead.

JAMES Y. WILLIAMS. Mustered into service March 1, 1864. Deserted April 1, 1864.

COMPANY G.

ASA ALDRICH. Mustered into service March 26, 1864. Died June 26, 1864, at City Point, Va.

WILLIAM A. HATTIN. Mustered into service March 26, 1864. Discharged June 16, 1865, by order of the War Department. Dead.

CHARLES HOYLE. Mustered into service March 26, 1864. Transferred February 21, 1865, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

EDGAR A. MORSE. Mustered into service February 20, 1864. Musician. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

JOHN H. PLACE. Mustered into service April 20, 1864. Discharged—absent sick—July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

COMPANY H.

GEORGE W. ELLIS. Mustered into service April 18, 1864. Discharged July 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

AMOS W. FARNSWORTH. Mustered into service April 18, 1864. Wounded in the eyes at Petersburg, Va. Placed in hospital at Washington, D. C. Discharged May 18, 1865, by order of the War Department.

CHARLES E. FARRAR. Mustered into service April 28, 1864. Died March 12, 1865, at Danville, Va.

COMPANY I.

JOHN BARKER. Mustered into service May 13, 1864. Died of wounds at Petersburg, Va., June 27, 1864.

COMPANY K.

ALLEN L. POTTER. Mustered into service May 3, 1864. Deserted June 25, 1865.

FORTIETH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY H.

CHARLES H. BRIGGS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Corporal. Commissioned Second Lieutenant August 26, 1863; First Lieutenant June 4, 1864; Captain February 18, 1865. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

EVERETT B. BLISS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Corporal. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

ALBERT F. BRIGGS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Wagoner. Discharged September 22, 1863, from disability.

GEORGE W. BALCOM. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred September 1, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

PERRY A. BALLOU. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged May 26, 1865, by order of the War Department.

JULIUS H. BLAKE. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged February 28, 1863, from disability.

WILLIAM A. BRADFORD. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred December 15, 1864, to Veteran Reserve Corps. Dead. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

JOHN D. BULLOCK. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service. Dead. Buried at Attleborough.

LURAD H. CHADWICK. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. First Sergeant. Made Second Lieutenant May 29, 1865. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service as First Sergeant.

FRANK E. CAPRON. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 21, 1865, from disability caused by a wound in the knee.

JOHN C. CUMMINGS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Corporal. Prisoner of war at Andersonville and Florence. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

EDWIN L. CRANDALL. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Corporal. Discharged July 16, 1864, from disability. Died March 12, 1887, at Pasadena, Cal. Buried in Attleborough.

CHARLES E. CLAPP. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Died December 5, 1863, at Folly Island, S. C.

JAMES DEVINE. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged January 27, 1863, from disability.[1]

FRANCIS DORAN. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 9, 1863, by order of the War Department.

JOSEPH EDGAR. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred August 1, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

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[1] Dead. Buried at South Attleborough.

CHARLES L. FULLER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Sergeant. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

JACOB GOETLER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

EDWIN J. HORTON. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Sergeant. Detailed in Commissary Department. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service. Lost on steamer Narragansett, June, 1880. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

ROBERT E. HARRIS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

ALBERT W. HATTIN. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged December 6, 1862, from disability. Dead. Buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

HENRY W. HODGES. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 7, 1865, from disability.

LLOYD B. HODGES. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 9, 1865, by order of the War Department.

GEORGE W. HORTON. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 29, 1865, by order of the War Department. Prisoner of war at Florence.

ISAAC N. JOHNSON. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged May 18, 1865, by order of the War Department.

HOMER METCALF. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. First Sergeant. Died at New York January 22, 1864.

SAMUEL A. NEWCOMB. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Died at Folly Island, S. C., November 30, 1863.

NICHOLAS NERNEY. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred September 1, 1863, to Veteran Reserve Corps. Discharged June 30, 1865.

WESNER PARK. Mustered into service August 15, 1862. Commissioned First Lieutenant; Captain June 2, 1863. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

EDWIN R. PAINE. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Sergeant. Discharged July 15, 1864, from disability. Died at Pawtucket, R. I.

HENRY M. PARK. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Corporal. Died of wounds at Bermuda Hundred June 6, 1864.

LESTER A. PERKINS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Killed June 3, 1864, at Cold Harbor, Va.

EUGENE H. RICHARDS. Mustered into service August 15, 1862. Commissioned Second Lieutenant. Made First Lieutenant June 2, 1863. Resigned as Second Lieutenant July 5, 1863.

EDGAR A. RICHARDSON. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 24, 1865, by order of the War Department. Dead. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

WILLIAM H. ROGERS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

GERSHOM R. ROUNDS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged September 10, 1864, from disability.

WILLIAM H. SMITH. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 13, 1865, by order of War Department. Wounded at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864.

JOHN F. STREETER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Commissioned First Lieutenant December 1, 1864. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service as Brevet-Captain.

HENRY A. STREETER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Sergeant. Commissioned First Lieutenant September 7, 1864. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

JOB B. SAVERY. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Sergeant. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service. Died October 3, 1886. Buried by William A. Streeter Post at Woodlawn Cemetery.

JOHN SLATER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Corporal. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

JAMES SHORT. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service. Wounded in the hand at Cold Harbor, Va., June 3, 1863.

GIDEON C. SLADE. Mustered into service January 12, 1864. Killed May 20, 1864, at Bermuda Hundred, Va.

WILLARD E. SLADE. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

GRANVILLE S. SMITH. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service.

AUGUSTUS A. STARKEY. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 16, 1865, at expiration of service. (By order of War Department.)[1]

ABIATHAR H. THAYER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Died of wounds June 8, 1864, at Chesapeake Hospital.

ABIJAH T. WALES. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred December 24, 1862, to Second Cavalry. Detailed as farrier. Discharged at Clouds Mills, Va., June 22, 1865, at expiration of service.

ELLIOTT M. WALLACE. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred April 10, 1864, to Veteran Reserve Corps. Dead. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

CHARLES H. WEAVER. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged August 18, 1863, from disability.

OTIS WHITE. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Transferred May 31, 1864, to Veteran Reserve Corps. Discharged.[2]

SILAS J. WHITNEY. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged January 27, 1863, from disability.

CHARLES F. WILLIAMS. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Discharged June 6, 1865, by order of the War Department.

JOHN O. WILMARTH. Mustered into service September 1, 1862. Died May 23, 1864, at Chesapeake Hospital. Wounded at Bermuda Hundred, May 20. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

TWENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY C.

FARANDUS BIMETUS. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Discharged May 30, 1865, by order of the War Department. [Reënlisted from New Orleans, La., to the credit of Attleborough.]

HENRY A. BLACKINTON. Mustered into service September 28, 1864. Discharged November 7, 1864, at expiration of service.

JOHN BROWN. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Deserted July 8, 1864. [Reënlisted from New Orleans, La., to the credit of Attleborough.]

GEORGE W. BURT. Mustered into service May 6, 1864. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service.

RUFUS W. COWDIN. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Corporal. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service. [Reënlisted from Pawtucket, R. I., to the credit of Attleborough].

WILLIAM H. COWDIN. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Corporal. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service. (From Pawtucket.)

WALTER F. CADY. Mustered into service September 28, 1864. Discharged October 17, 1864, from disability.

FRANCIS CONLIN. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service.

GEORGE W. COWDIN. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Killed September 19, 1864, at Winchester, Va. (From Pawtucket.)

STEPHEN A. FERGUSON. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Died at New Orleans, La., June 8, 1862.

GEORGE W. GILES. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Discharged November 7, 1865, at expiration of service.

THOMAS J. HOOD. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Killed October 19, 1864, at Cedar Creek, Va. [He reënlisted in Pawtucket to the credit of Attleborough.]

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[1] Died February 11, 1894. Buried in Old Kirk Yard. [2] Died August 10, 1890. Buried at Woodlawn.

JOSEPH S. HUNT. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Transferred December 22, 1863, to Signal Corps.

ALVIN T. JOSLIN. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Discharged November 7, 1864, at expiration of service.

JAMES KEENAN. Mustered into service February 1, 1864. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service. [Reënlisted from Pawtucket, R. I.]

JOHN MCGUIRE. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Discharged June 19, 1865, from disability. [Reënlisted from New Orleans, La.]

THOMAS MCKENNA. Mustered into service March 24, 1864. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service. [Reënlisted from Pawtucket, R. I.]

BARNEY MCTAGUE. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Discharged June 28, 1865, from disability. [Reënlisted from Pawtucket, R. I.]

JAMES O. SMITH. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service. [Reënlisted from Pawtucket, R. I.]

THOMAS SWETLAND. Mustered into service March 23, 1864. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service.

ARTHUR W. THORNTON. Mustered into service March 24, 1864. Deserted June 3, 1865.

COMPANY I.

WILLIAM HIGGINS. Mustered into service September 1, 1861. Discharged January 31, 1864, to reënlist February 1, 1864, in the same company. Deserted July 11, 1864.

COMPANY K.

SPALDING H. ABBOTT. Mustered into service January 5, 1864. Corporal. Discharged August 26, 1865, at expiration of service. [Reënlisted from Pawtucket, R. I., to the credit of Attleborough.]

FRANK W. STANTON. Mustered into service September 14, 1861. Died October 28, 1862, at New Orleans, La.

TWENTY-FOURTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY C.

EDWIN C. BRAGG. Mustered into service September 14, 1861. Discharged January 3, 1864, to reënlist January 4, 1864, in the same company. Lost April 28, 1865, on steamer General Lyon.

CHARLES P. DIRK. Mustered into service September 16, 1861. Discharged September 16, 1864, at expiration of service. Reënlisted January 5, 1865, in Hancock's Veteran Reserve Corps. Mustered out January 4, 1866. Died August 21, 1886. Buried at Mount Hope Cemetery by William A. Streeter Post.

ALTRIETH LEONARD. Mustered into service September 12, 1861. Discharged October 16, 1864, at expiration of service.

ERNEST MYER. Mustered into service September 12, 1861. Discharged September 15, 1863, from disability from wounds.

JAMES SHERMAN. Mustered into service September 16, 1861. Transferred March 9, 1864, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

JOHN THOMAS. Mustered into service September 9, 1861. Killed March 14, 1862, at Newberne, N. C.

JACOB WEIS. Mustered into service September 12, 1861. Discharged January 3, 1864, to reënlist January 4, 1864. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

JAMES C. WINDSOR. Mustered into service February 8, 1864. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

DE WITT C. YOUNG. Mustered into service September 16, 1861. Discharged September 10, 1864, at expiration of service.

COMPANY H.

EDWARD E. BRIGGS. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Discharged October 8, 1864, at expiration of service.

GEORGE W. CLARK. Mustered into service October 28, 1861. Killed August 16, 1864, at Deep Run, Va.

CHARLES F. DEAN. Mustered into service October 19, 1861. Discharged October 22, 1864. Wounded at Newberne, N. C., March 14, 1862.[1]

ALBERT D. DEAN. Mustered into service October 3, 1861. Made corporal August 22, 1862; sergeant August 16, 1864. Discharged October 8, 1864, at expiration of service.

JAMES J. FIELDS. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Made corporal August 11, 1863. Discharged January 3, 1864, to reënlist January 4, 1864. Wounded at Deep Run, Va., August 14, 1864. Discharged June 14, 1865.

RICHARD FIELDS. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Died August 1, 1862, at Newberne, N. C.

BENJAMIN F. FISHER. Mustered into service October 4, 1861. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

JOEL A. FISHER. Mustered into service October 2, 1861. Discharged January 3, 1864, to reënlist January 4, 1864. Made corporal August 11, 1863; sergeant October 1, 1864; first sergeant November 1, 1865. Returned to the ranks by request November 15, 1865. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service. Died September 8, 1883. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

WILLIAM F. GARDNER. Mustered into service October 29, 1861. Discharged November 1, 1864, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM H. GOFF. Mustered into service October 21, 1861. Discharged January 3, 1864, to reënlist January 20, 1864. Made corporal September 2, 1864; sergeant March 1, 1865. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM C. MCKINLEY. Mustered into service October 8, 1861. Discharged October 28, 1862, from disability.

DAVID N. MILLS. Mustered into service February 8, 1864. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

DANIEL H. SMITH. Mustered into service October 7, 1861. Sergeant. Made first sergeant July 25, 1864. Discharged October 7, 1864. Wounded at Deep Run, Va., August 16, 1864.

WILLIAM A. STREETER. Mustered into service October 15, 1861. Discharged January 3, 1864, to reënlist January 4, 1864. Made corporal September 8, 1863; sergeant May 1, 1864. Killed at Deep Run, Va., August 16, 1864. Buried in Old Kirk Yard. Attleborough G. A. R. Post named for him.

THOMAS THOMPSON. Mustered into service October 21, 1861. Made corporal May 16, 1864. Discharged October 21, 1864, at expiration of service. Died July 3, 1884. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

COMPANY I.

LEONARD JOSLIN. Mustered into service September 25, 1861. Discharged January 1, 1864, to reënlist January 2, 1864. Discharged January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

ELIJAH R. READ. Mustered into service October 18, 1861. Discharged October 18, 1864, at expiration of service. Reënlisted. Discharged in January, 1866.

NATHAN H. READ. Mustered into service October 18, 1861. Discharged October 18, 1864, at expiration of service.

GEORGE F. WALLACE. Mustered into service October 18, 1861. Discharged January 1, 1864, to reënlist January 2, 1864. Discharged as corporal January 20, 1866, at expiration of service.

EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY A.

RAY T. REYNOLDS. Mustered into service September 5, 1861. Died July 10, 1862, at Baltimore, Md.

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[1] Died April 24, 1891. Buried by William A. Streeter Post at Woodlawn Cemetery.

COMPANY B.

WALTER KETON. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Discharged December 31, 1862, from disability.

CHARLES E. RYONSON. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Discharged September 2, 1864, at expiration of service.

COMPANY H.

CHARLES O. WALLIS. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Discharged September 2, 1864, at expiration of service.

COMPANY I.

WILLIAM A. BLAKE. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Discharged November 29, 1862, from disability.

DANIEL K. FRANKLIN. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Discharged October 20, 1861, from disability.

EPHRAIM M. KNAPP. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Died October 27, 1861.

FRANK G. SMITH. Mustered into service August 24, 1861. Killed at Bull Run, Va., August 30, 1862.

THIRTEENTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY C.

CHARLES HILL. Mustered into service July 29, 1863. Deserted September 17, 1863.

COMPANY H.

GEORGE SWARTZ. Mustered into service July 27, 1863. Discharged April 21, 1864.

ADAM WOLFE. Mustered into service July 24, 1863. Transferred July 14, 1864, to Thirty-ninth Infantry.

THIRTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

COMPANY F.

LEWIS O. HAWKINS. Mustered out of service June 13, 1865. Died July 15, 1885. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery by William A. Streeter Post.

ENLISTMENTS IN ARTILLERY, CAVALRY, AND NAVY.

REYNOLD ARNOLD. Mustered into service September 4, 1864, in Company F, Second Massachusetts Heavy Artillery. Transferred January 17, 1865, to Seventeenth Infantry.

MICHAEL SULLIVAN. Mustered into service August 23, 1864, in Company F, Heavy Artillery. Discharged June 26, 1865, at expiration of service.

JOHN BRAGSHAW. Mustered into service March 22, 1864, in Light Artillery. Deserted July 9, 1864.

THIRD MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY.

COMPANY A.

VARANUS S. BAILEY. Mustered into service January 5, 1864. Discharged September 25, 1865, at expiration of service.

COMPANY B.

JOSEPH G. HODGSON. Mustered into service February 25, 1864. Discharged July 29, 1865, at expiration of service; then member of Company H.

COMPANY C.

ADAM DEBU. Mustered into service February 4, 1864. Deserted August 25, 1865.

JOHN MITCHELL. Mustered into service January 4, 1864. First sergeant. Discharged September 28, 1865, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM SWIFT. Mustered into service January 6, 1864. Discharged September 28, 1865, at expiration of service.

COMPANY D.

FRANK A. RICHARDS. Mustered into service January 4, 1864. Discharged August 1, 1865, at expiration of service.

TIMOTHY A. STANLEY. Mustered into service January 1, 1864. Discharged September 28, 1865, at expiration of service.

FOURTH MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY.

COMPANY G.

JOHN FAY. Mustered into service January 27, 1864. Discharged November 14, 1865, at expiration of service.

COMPANY H.

BARNEY MULLAN. Mustered into service February 8, 1864. Deserted September 11, 1865.

FIFTH MASSACHUSETTS CAVALRY.

COMPANY C.

PHILIP SHIELDS. Mustered into service January 29, 1864. Died at Point Lookout, Md., September 12, 1864.

LEWIS WALKER. Mustered into service January 29, 1864. Bugler. Discharged October 31, 1865, at expiration of service.

COMPANY F.

WILLIAM H. JOHNSON. Mustered into service June 8, 1864. Discharged October 31, 1865, at expiration of service.

WILLIAM RANSOM. Mustered into service June 8, 1864. Discharged October 31, 1865, at expiration of service.

NAVY.

GEORGE R. ADAMS. See Tenth Rhode Island Light Battery.

ARTHUR F. BRIGGS. Mustered into service July 27, 1864. Assigned to gunboat Harvest Moon, which was destroyed by a torpedo. Discharged June 3, 1865. Died May 9, 1871. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

FREDERICK D. BLISS. Assigned to North Atlantic Squadron. Dead.

WILLIAM A. MCDONALD. Assigned to gunboat Sonoma in South Atlantic Squadron. Discharged at New York, June 25, 1865.

MANFRED H. WEAVER. Assigned to gunboat Galena in Gulf Squadron. Enlisted August 27, 1864. Discharged June 12, 1865. Died February 13, 1877.

SAMUEL TYLER READ. Promoted to be Major in Indiana detachment of cavalry. Commissioned. Died at New Orleans, La.

C. FRANK LUTHER. Enlisted October 7, 1861, in Company C, Twenty-second Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (Henry Wilson's regiment). Discharged September 25, 1862. Appointed Lieutenant of Corps d'Afrique November 12, 1863. Assigned to Tenth Infantry December 15, 1863. Appointed Aide-de-camp December 17, 1863. Appointed Adjutant Eighty-second United States Colored Infantry July 21, 1864. This regiment was designated Fifth United States Volunteers, Tenth Corps d'Afrique, and Eighty-second United States Colored Infantry. Mr. Luther was discharged December 19, 1864. In 1876-77-78 served as Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

CHARLES F. CARPENTER. Sergeant in Company E, Twentieth Massachusetts Regiment. Wounded in face. Lost part of jaw. Died December 23, 1892. Buried in soldiers' lot at Woodlawn Cemetery.

ENLISTMENTS IN RHODE ISLAND.

FIRST REGIMENT. COMPANY D.

CHARLES H. BLISS. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.

SAMUEL G. COLWELL. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.

N. JUSTIN SMITH. Mustered into service at Washington, D. C., in April, 1861.

COMPANY E.

HENRY C. BROWN. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Sergeant. Discharged August 2, 1861.

COMPANY G.

JOHN S. BROWN. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861. Reenlisted December 14, 1861, in Company B, First Rhode Island Cavalry. Corporal-Sergeant. Killed in battle October 14, 1863. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

SECOND RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT.

COMPANY A.

CHARLES E. CROCKER. Mustered into service July 8, 1863. Transferred on reorganization of regiment. Taken prisoner November 6, 1863.

COMPANY C.

DANIEL E. ADAMS. Mustered into service June 8, 1861. Wounded at battle of Salem Heights May 3, 1863. Discharged June 17, 1864.

GEORGE HUBBARD. Mustered into service May 5, 1861. Wagoner. Discharged February 28, 1862, on surgeon's certificate.

DANIEL L. TUCKER. Mustered into service June 5, 1861. Wounded slightly before Richmond June 25, 1862. Discharged December 30, 1862, on surgeon's certificate.

JAMES W. MCKACKNEY. Mustered into service May 5, 1861. Absent in Portsmouth Grove Hospital September 1, 1862.

COMPANY D.

CHARLES E. KENT. Mustered out of service July 13, 1865.

CHARLES S. KUCE. Mustered into service June 6, 1861. Wounded at Bull Run July 21, 1861. Discharged June 17, 1864.

THOMAS SHERIDAN. Mustered into service October 31, 1863. At new organization July 13, 1865, absent in hospital sick.

ALVIN T. SUNDERLAND. Mustered into service October 31, 1863. Discharged at new organization July 13, 1865.

COMPANY G.

THOMAS LAMBERT. Mustered into service June 5, 1861. Wounded at Bull Run July 21, 1861. Discharged March 24, 1862, on surgeon's certificate.

COMPANY H.

ANSEL L. SWEET. Mustered into service October 13, 1862. Corporal. Discharged July 29, 1863.

FOURTH RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT.

COMPANY G.

WILLIAM T. THACHER. Mustered into service August 15, 1862. Wounded. Served in Commissary Department. Died in Boston July 15, 1884. Buried in Old Kirk Yard.

COMPANY I.

GEORGE CROCKER. Mustered into service October 31, 1861. Discharged October 15, 1864.

DARIUS I. COLE. Company I, Seventh Rhode Island. Killed at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, Va., May 13, 1865. Sergeant and Second Lieutenant.

SEVENTH RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT.

COMPANY D.

JOHN FRAWLEY. Mustered into service September 6, 1862. Discharged April 17, 1863, on surgeon's certificate.

COMPANY E.

GEORGE H. HARTSHORN. Mustered into service September 6, 1862. Transferred under new organization October 21, 1864. Discharged June 9, 1865.

ELEVENTH RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT.

COMPANY C.

ROGER L. LINCOLN. Mustered into service October 1, 1862. Discharged July 13, 1863.
EUGENE A. MOTT. Mustered into service October 1, 1862. Discharged July 13, 1863.
EDWIN PERRY. Mustered into service October 1, 1862. Discharged July 13, 1863.

TWELFTH RHODE ISLAND REGIMENT.

COMPANY K.

WILLIAM F. FIELD. Mustered into service October 13, 1862. Wounded at Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 1862. Discharged July 29, 1863.

THIRD RHODE ISLAND ARTILLERY.

COMPANY A.

THOMAS CORCORAN. Mustered into service February 17, 1862. Reënlisted March 21, 1864.

COMPANY C.

EDWARD E. CARPENTER. Mustered into service October 5, 1861. First Sergeant. Reënlisted January 20, 1864, in Company G, First Rhode Island. Commissioned Second Lieutenant March 22, 1865, and First Lieutenant May 13, 1865. Discharged June 9, 1865, at expiration of service.
ALLEN W. GUILD. Mustered into service December 21, 1861. Taken prisoner on Keawah Island, S. C., December 4, 1863. Paroled. Discharged January 29, 1865.

COMPANY H.

THOMAS C. HIBBERT. Mustered into service October 5, 1861. Corporal. Sergeant. Reenlisted January 25, 1864. Transferred to Company B September 15, 1864.

COMPANY L.

SAMUEL JACKSON. Mustered into service April 29, 1864. Transferred to Company D February 24, 1865.
SAMUEL N. KNAPP. Mustered into service February 14, 1862. Discharged February 2, 1863, on surgeon's certificate.

COMPANY M.

ALBERT ATWOOD. Mustered into service March 17, 1862. Reënlisted September 16, 1864. Transferred to Company D February 24, 1865.

FIFTH RHODE ISLAND HEAVY ARTILLERY.

COMPANY A.

AMOS EATON. Mustered into service December 16, 1861. Reënlisted January 4, 1864. Taken prisoner May 5, 1864, at Croatan, N. C. Died in August, 1864, at Andersonville, Ga.

COMPANY D.

CHARLES C. GREENE. Mustered into service December 16, 1861. Sergeant. Reënlisted January 2, 1864. Mustered out of service January 26, 1865.
CHARLES H. SMITH. Mustered into service December 16, 1861. Sergeant. Transferred to Company K March 2, 1863. Reënlisted January 2, 1864. Discharged June 26, 1865.

COMPANY E.

WILLIAM N. BROWN. Mustered into service December 16, 1861. Mustered out November 29, 1864.

GEORGE W. FRENCH. Mustered into service December 16, 1861. Reënlisted January 5, 1864. Mustered out of service June 26, 1865.

COMPANY F.

THOMAS CASSIDY. Mustered into service May 27, 1862. Mustered out May 19, 1865.

MICHAEL DEVINE. Mustered into service May 27, 1862. Sergeant. Mustered out May 19, 1865.

JOHN REYNOLDS. Mustered into service June 10, 1862. Mustered out June 10, 1865.

COMPANY H.

LAWRENCE FLANAGAN. Mustered into service December 27, 1862. Sergeant. Transferred April 12, 1864, to Veteran Reserve Corps.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND LIGHT ARTILLERY.

COMPANY A.

ALBERT J. JENCKES. Mustered into service June 6, 1861. Transferred to Battery F October 3, 1861.

ROBERT LAUGHLIN. Mustered into service March 18, 1862. Discharged in November, 1862, on surgeon's certificate.

COMPANY D.

STEPHEN W. BALLOU. Mustered into service September 4, 1861. Corporal. Mustered out September 3, 1864.

CHARLES E. MAY. Date of enlistment or discharge not known. Musician.

FRANK M. TUCKER. Mustered into service September 4, 1861. Corporal. Reënlisted January 31, 1864. Sergeant. Commissioned Second Lieutenant June 12, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services during the war. Mustered out of service July 17, 1865.

COMPANY F.

CHARLES H. BAKER. Mustered into service October 29, 1861. Mustered out October 28, 1864.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND LIGHT BATTERY.

ALLEN W. BLACKINTON. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Mustered out August 6, 1861.

JEREMIAH FITZGERALD. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Mustered out August 6, 1861.

WILLIAM H. WALCOTT. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Honorably discharged June 7, 1861, to accept a commission in Seventeenth Infantry Regular Army.

TENTH RHODE ISLAND LIGHT BATTERY.

GEORGE R. ADAMS. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Discharged August 30, 1862. Reënlisted in navy. Assigned to gun-boat Sonoma in South Atlantic Squadron, flag-ship. Discharged June 25, 1865.

HENRY C. BAILEY. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Mustered out August 30, 1862. Reenlisted February 4, 1864, in Company F, Seventh Rhode Island Cavalry. Sergeant. Wounded in the eye April 23, 1864, on Red River, La. Discharged September 5, 1864, on surgeon's certificate.

WILLIAM A. BRAGG. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Discharged August 30, 1862.

GIDEON M. HORTON. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Mustered out August 30, 1862. Died at San Antonio, Texas, December 16, 1886. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

GEORGE P. JOHNSON. Mustered into service May 20, 1862. Mustered out August 30, 1862. Reënlisted, was on gun-boat Nipsic. Died at Andersonville, Ga.

JOHN L. REMLINGER. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Corporal. Mustered out August 30, 1862.

CHARLES H. STARKEY. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Corporal. Discharged August 30, 1862. (Died in Boston.)

LINSCOMB C. WINN. Mustered into service May 26, 1862. Corporal. Mustered out August 30, 1862.

FRANK W. COLE. See Forty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND CAVALRY.

COMPANY G.

EMMONS D. GUILD. Mustered into service December 9, 1861. Prisoner of war at Richmond, Va., Andersonville, Ga., Savannah, Florence, Charleston, Willington, etc. Discharged April 1, 1865.

COMPANY F.

GEORGE L. PEARCE. Mustered into service December 14, 1861. Discharged April 1, 1862 on surgeon's certificate.

SEVENTH RHODE ISLAND CAVALRY.

COMPANY A.

JABEZ S. GAY. Mustered into service June 24, 1862. Discharged September 26, 1862.

COMPANY C.

JAMES MCKAY. Mustered into service January 9, 1864. Corporal. Discharged November 29, 1865.

COMPANY F.

ALBANUS D. CLAFLIN. Mustered into service February 4, 1864. Corporal. Discharged November 29, 1865.

COMPANY M.

JOHN REYNOLDS. Mustered into service June 18, 1864. Deserted July 12, 1865.
MICHAEL ROGERS. Mustered into service June 18, 1864. Deserted July 10, 1864.
HENRY C. BAILEY. See Tenth Rhode Island Light Battery.
HENRY A. BURCHARD. See Forty-seventh Massachusetts Regiment.
HENRY W. COLE. See Seventh Massachusetts Regiment.

FIRST RHODE ISLAND DETACHED MILITIA.

COMPANY C.

GEORGE L. DRAPER. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.
JOSIAH W. RICHARDSON. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.

COMPANY D.

CHARLES O. JACKSON. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.

COMPANY E.

IRA E. MILLER. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.
CHARLES SMITH. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.
HENRY C. WICKSON. Mustered into service May 2, 1861. Discharged August 2, 1861.

The following are the names of those soldiers who were obtained "at the front," and were there enlisted to the credit of the town to fill several quotas: —

Ephraim Adams,	John Aite,	William H. Anderson,
Henry Bronkhurst,	W. C. Bramhill,	John Barber,
Julius Bacon,	John A. Bott,	Ed. J. Bailey,
Thomas Callahan,	Morris Carey,	James D. Cavins,

Francis P. Clark,	James W. Clark,	Stephen R. Coffy,
Burton Cole,	George A. Crossman,	John Davit,
Michael Dillon,	John Doisey,	John Dwyer,
Thomas Eagan,	Jacob Feathers,	Samuel Ferguson,
Patrick Finnegan,	John W. Fitzpatrick,	James Gorman,
Michael Gorman,	George Guderberlett,	Henry Higgins,
John D. Hackman,	Henry Hoffman,	Thomas S. Hoover,
Charles S. Hulse,	William Irwin,	Robert Jones,
John F. Kappel,	Michael Keegan,	Edward Kelley,
Michael Keltz,	Christian Kern,	Bernhardt Klien.
Frederick W. Koring,	Theodore Kramer,	Oscar H. Lane,
Jacob Laubenheimer,	James O. Lee,	William H. Martin,
Thomas Mathers,	John McCallon,	Thomas McGovern,
Edward McNaspey,	Adolph Metzer,	Thomas Mitchell,
Bernhardt Miller,	Leonidas G. Mock,	Victor Mott,
Matthew Murphy,	Thomas Murphy,	Michael Newman,
Christian Proezeller,	William J. Sweeney,	Charles Siedler.
George W. Steward,	John Schlottman,	James Spengler,
Thomas Tuffy,	Frederick Voss,	Henry Weiss.

The above list is certainly a creditable one both in length and character. At the time of the war our town numbered some 7,000 or 8,000 inhabitants and, in round numbers, sent four hundred men to the field, a number of whom served more than once. Several families sent two members, and in four instances three members enlisted and served, in every case brothers. They were James W., Samuel, and Thomas Thompson; Henry S., Daniel E., and George G. Adams; Everett S., Edwin J., and Gideon M. Horton; John F., Henry A., and William A. Streeter. Of this unusual fact we may be proud and of the further fact that all had an honorable record as soldiers. It adds further interest to record that these twelve men were neighbors, all of one village; and the statement may still be made that they are, as they were, from *Attleborough*, the places where they resided being still in that town.

The following is a list of the men drafted for this town in Taunton, July 16, 1863, and may be of interest to some.

James McClatchy,	Seneca Cole,	John R. Blackinton,
William Holly,	William Worger,	Arthur B. Carpenter,
Robert H. Sherman,	Horace D. Cutting,	James J. Freeman,
Randolph Knapp,	George P. Johnston,	C. M. Rhodes,
Robert Laughlin,	William H. Beebe,	Edward E. Honan,
William A. Knight,	Edward A. Wilson.	Thomas S. Wheelock,
Patrick Larry,	George Crocker,	Augustus C. Hall,
Gamaliel Draper,	George A. Dean,	Charles H. Bushee,
William H. Tiffany,	George W. French,	Sullivan Eaton,
Charles H. Ames,	George E. Wallace,	Edwin B. Thurber,
Charles H. Wood,	Reuben A. Dean,	Daniel Jacques,
David Knight,	Frederick Dahl,	Dennis Murphy,
Eustis B. Ingraham,	William Walker,	John Doran,
Frank B. Richards,	John F. Mackinson,	Raymond A. King,
Peter Boyce,	William C. Brainard,	Thomas Bride,
John Dennis,	Patrick Nally,	Charles Murray.

John Beckler,	John Dooling,	Jarvis W. Robinson,
John Grefin,	Charles M. Newell,	Thomas Schofield,
John Flaven,	Charles A. P. Coggeswell,	Albert Howard,
Thomas A. Cobb,	Frank Fairbanks,	Lyman N. Sayles,
Edward Laughlin,	David Jillson,	Nathaniel B. Maxcy,
Calvin F. Braley,	Thomas S. Mann,	George H. Draper,
J. Shepard Richards,	Stephen Stanley,	Warren W. Wheeler,
Brainard T. Bruce,	Frank L. Cummings,	James Handy,
Walter Ballou,	James Battersley,	Noyes J. Smith,
Albert Fairbanks,	Humphrey Murphy,	Lewis A. Newell,
Martin V. Corey,	Joseph W. Perry,	Alfred Pierce,
Henry L. Joslin,	Joseph Clough,	Thomas S. Snell,
George A. Shepardson,	George Jillson,	John L. Torrey,
Henry Clemens,	Benjamin S. Chapin,	Gilbert Luther,
Silas H. Manchester,	Silas F. Hall,	Nicholas E. Gardner,
Albert M. Everett,	Frank Bartosch,	William B. Hodges,
William M. Price,	Charles W. Brockinton,	Nelson Tinkham,
Russell B. Nye,	Albert A. Sweet,	Slater Herring,
Charles B. Des Jardins,	David Killon,	Everett L. Sweet,
Albert M. Simmons,	John L. Baker,	Albert Ballou,
Moses Harding,	Ruel Glidden,	Timothy Perry,
Eben L. Sylvester,	Albert D. Sadler,	D. Sanford Hall,
Lucius Z. Carpenter,	William W. Fisher,	Frank W. Davenport,
William C. White,	James D. Tucker,	George F. Green,
	James H. Handy.	

The following is a list of exemptions: —

William P. Holly,	Thomas S. Wheelock,	Noyes J. Smith,
Martin V. Corey,	Peter Bois, (No. 33)	Henry W. Clemens,
Stephen Stanley,	Franklin Cummings,	Albert M. Everett,
Eben L. Sylvester,	J. Shepard Richards,	D. Sanford Hall,
George A. Dean,	John L. Torrey,	Humphrey Murphy,
John F. Mackinson,	Thomas M. Snell,	John Doran,
John Dooling,	Dennis Murphy,	Augustus C. Hall,
Slater D. Herring,	Raymond K. King,	John Grefin,
William H. Tiffany,	Charles B. Des Jardins,	George W. French,
Charles H. Ames,	Albert P. Fairbanks,	Brainard T. Bruce,
Jarvis W. Robinson,	John Dennis,	John R. Blackinton,
George A. Shepardson,	Charles H. Wood,	George S. Barney,
Moses Harding,	John Beckler,	Charles H. Bushee,
Thomas A. Cobb,	Nelson Tinkham,	Edward Laughlin,
Frank Bartosch,	Randolph Knapp,	Timothy Perry,
Albert Ballou,	George F. Green,	Seneca Cole,
James J. Freeman,	Sullivan Eaton,	Thomas S. Mann,
	William M. Price,	Charles M. Newell.

The following is a list, as nearly correct as could be ascertained, of the pensioners in the town at the time of the division, with the amount paid to them monthly: —

Charles White	$3.00	Charles S. Cummings	$16.00
William H. Smith	4.00	Charles Carpenter	4.00
William A. Sturdy	4.00	Lurad H. Chadwick	2.00
John Simms	4.00	Otis Williams	4.00
George W. Jennison	4.00	James Baines	3.00

Daniel L. Tucker	$12.00	Thomas R. Gay	$3.00
George H. Thrasher	8.00	Jeremiah S. Rowe	18.00
Lloyd B. Hodges	2.00	Horace Miller	4.00
John L. Thayer	8.00	Abbie R. Thayer	8.00
Ensign E. Kelly	4.00	Emeline Wilmarth?	8.00
Thomas G. Hinton	6.00	Hannah Webb	8.00
John A. Whaley	2.00	Lucy A. Jackson	8.00
Martin Berry	4.00	Caroline E. Llufrio	8.00
Horace C. Brown	6.00	Mary O'Neil	8.00
William E. Dunham	4.00	Mary A. Griffin	8.00
Thomas Panzera	8.00	Phebe T. Shepardson	8.00
John J. Rollins	8.00	Mary Flanagan	8.00
Herbert E. Whipple	4.00	Ruth Burchard	8.00
Edwin Whitney	8.00	Fannie Clapp	8.00
George H. T. Alfred	2.00	William Field	8.00
Charles W. Brown	2.00	Frances A. Meserve	8.00
Hiram L. Danforth	6.00	Alfred Fiske	4.00
William Kingsley	$6.00		

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH.

Abel R. Block	$6.00	John G. Doran	$2.00
Daniel Crotty	4.00	Henry A. Blackinton	5.00
William H. Fisher	4.00	Eliza A. Clark	8.00
Benjamin F. Lincoln	4.00	Margaret Hattery	8.00
Perry A. Ballou	2.00	Kesiah Hall	8.00
Dexter B. Freeman	18.00	Rebecca Clark	8.00
Walter Katon	4.00	Maria S. Allen	8.00
Henry W. Stearns	2.00	Walter G. Clark	4.00
Helen M. Johnson	20.00	Celia Kent	8.00
Jane F. Williams	8.00	Vernal Stanley	8.00
Sarah Gilligan	8.00	Silas G. Wood	3.00
Dolly Thompson, 1812?	$8.00		

CHAPTER IX.

CHURCHES AND THE MINISTRY. — FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

FOR almost fifty years the town constituted one parish, and was not divided until April 7, 1743. For several years after its incorporation it was not able to support a preacher, owing to the small number of its inhabitants. Soon after the organization of the town affairs, however, steps were taken to obtain a pastor and arrangements made for a place of abode for him. Extracts from the records detailing to some extent the early proceedings relative to the first church and the settlement of the first minister will be acceptable to the present generation.

March 6, 1704, the town ordered that twelve acres of land in the minister's lot should be fenced in; four acres were to be broken up and a house built, twenty-six feet long, twenty-eight feet wide, and thirteen feet stud; and there was to be a stack of three chimneys in the house, "with a Cellar under the bigest room," sixteen feet long and fourteen feet wide, and all to be completed by the last day of March, 1706. It would seem it was not completed until after the specified date, for on May 16, 1706, it was voted that the money in the hands of the town officers should be used for nails, etc., for use on the minister's house.

March 25, 1707. "The meeting then held was for the choosing of a learned orthodox minister of good conversation to dispense the word of God to us in Attleborough: voted to give Mr. Fiske a call to preach for us. Likewise a committee of nine was chosen to procure a minister to settle. It was likewise voted to empower the said committee to treat with the said Mr. Fiske as to his dispensing the word of God amongst us, and to settle him if he may be obtained; and if he may not, then any other minister that the town shall call, being approved by the neighboring ministers."

May 20, 1707. "Voted to give Mr. More a call to preach amongst us, and to settle if he may be obtained." In June, 1707, it was voted "that Hezekiah Peck and Jonathan Fuller be a committee to see and get a petition written to the General Court for some help towards the maintenance of a minister."[1] The sum of eighty pounds had been granted by the town November 22, 1705, towards building a minister's house, thirty-five pounds

[1] In 1710 the Mile and Half was reannexed to this town, which restored fourteen families and enabled the people to support a preacher without other assistance.

of which had been collected, and on July 2, 1707, the town voted that the remaining forty-five pounds should be levied and collected.

June 15, 1708. "The meeting then held was for the choosing of an able and orthodox minister to serve us in the work of the ministry in this place. It was voted that the committee should treat with Mr. Wiswell to dispense the word of God to us if he may be obtained; if not, then with Mr. Fisher, if he may be obtained; if not, then with Mr. Hunt, if he may be obtained; if not, then with Mr. Devotion, and if neither of them may be obtained, then they may treat with any other that shall be allowed of by the neighboring ministers, until they have settled one in Attleborough."[1]

July 27, 1710. "Chose Mr. Ebenezer White for our minister, if he will stay with us, if not, then Mr. Myles." Mr. White, it appears, did not at this time accept the invitation to settle. He, however, preached for the people nearly a year.

October 9, 1710, the town chose a committee to see to the finishing of the meetinghouse, and the 1st of "January next ensuing" was the time fixed for finishing it. "Voted to raise a tax of £60 as a fund for said work, £5 to be in money, and the rest in corn, rye, beef and pork, or in materials for the building."

November 20, 1710. "Voted that the house which is built on the ministerial lot should be given to the first minister that shall serve the town seven years in the office of a minister, and so living and dying amongst us, then to be his and his heirs forever."[2]

October 1, 1711. At a meeting for the choice of an able, orthodox minister "to dispense the word of God to us in Attleborough," the town chose Mr. Matthew Short for their minister.

November 5, 1711. "Granted a tax of £25 towards paying Mr. Short; £10 in money and the other £15 in grain, pork, beef, butter, cheese at current price."

March 18, 1711–12. "Voted to build a pew for the minister in the meeting house, and also agreed that Mrs. Short shall have the benefit and privilege of sitting in the same during her abode in Attleborough."

Rev. Matthew Short accepted the call of the people and became the first settled minister in this town. He was the son of Henry Short, of Newbury. He was born March 14, 1688, and graduated at Harvard College in the class of 1707. He was quite a young man when he came here, twenty-three years of age. He was chosen, as has been seen, October 1, 1711, and ordained November 12, 1712. Difficulties soon arose between him and his

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[1] The inhabitants were so few, consisting of about sixteen families exclusive of the fourteen who had been annexed to Rehoboth, that they were not able to afford a competent salary, which was probably the cause of their embarrassment in the settlement of a minister at first.

[2] The second settled minister acquired the property of this house and also the ministerial farm, as will subsequently appear, by having fulfilled the condition of the grant.

people which, after many ineffectual attempts to reconcile them, finally resulted in his dismission. The trouble related to his salary; the matter was compromised and he dismissed May 31, 1715. He continued in this town only about four years, having preached one year before his ordination.

According to the articles of agreement made with Mr. Short December 20, 1711, he was to have fifty pounds a year for the first six years, one third to be in money and "the other two thirds in grain, beef, pork, butter or cheese, any or either of them at current price."[1] At the seventh year his salary was to be raised to sixty pounds payable as above, and there to continue until there should be one hundred families in town capable of paying public taxes, in the judgment of the selectmen for the time being, and then it was to be seventy pounds per annum. He was also to have the use of the ministerial house and lands so long as he should continue in his pastoral office.

Mr. Short was married to Margaret Freeman, of this town, by Justice Leonard, of Norton, December 27, 1711. They had two daughters while residing here, Anna and Judith. Of the previous or subsequent history of Mr. Short but little is known. He removed to Easton and became the first settled minister in that town, where he remained in harmony with his people till his death. He died in the year 1731, aged forty-three, leaving ten children, three sons and seven daughters. These were Matthew, Ebenezer, Glover, Anna, Judith, Margaret, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, and Lydia. Judith married —— Hunt; Margaret, —— Tingley; Sarah, —— Orcut; Elizabeth, —— Noyes. It is said that Mr. Short "left a considerable real estate which was divided among his children."[2]

The first meetinghouse was built in 1710. At a town meeting February 9, 1709–10, it was "voted to build a meeting house thirty feet square and sixteen feet between joints, and to set it upon a piece of land on the east side of the country road near to the house of Christopher Hall, and to get the timber for said house and to frame and raise it by the first of June next." This building was not, however, entirely completed until 1714. It was,

[1] These articles were then valued as follows: Indian corn, 2s. 6d. per bushel; rye, 3s. 6d. per bushel; pork, 3d. per lb.; beef, 2d. per lb.; butter, 6d. per lb.; and good new milk cheese, 4d. per lb. The following emphatic receipt was found upon the records: —

Attleboro' Feb. the 7th 171¼ Received of Mr. Benjamin Crabtree, Constable, Thirtie and one pounds six shillings and eight pence in full of what he was ordered for to pay to me on the account of the town rate for the year 1714. I say

Received by me,
Matthew Short.

As this amount was more than the one-third money payment per year agreed upon, it would seem that the produce portion may have fallen off in proportion. Little more regarding this matter was found excepting that on the date upon which this receipt was given a committee of fourteen was chosen to confer with the church and make an effort to heal the dissensions between the church and Mr. Short, the cause of the troubles having been noticed. All such efforts seem, however, to have been unavailing.

[2] Some of these facts relating to Mr. Short are from information furnished by the late Hon. Ellis Ames, of Canton, Mass.

according to the vote, thirty feet square and stood on the spot where the hall of the Agricultural Society formerly stood, this lot having been given to the town by Lieutenant Moses Read for public purposes.

In October, 1711, the town gave the committee "full power to finish the meting-hous within and without, makeing of Dors Laying of a floore, makeing of seets, makeing of a pulpit and glazing of the windows, and all the finishing work except the galories." August, 1712, the committee was empowered "to finish said meeting-hous, with gallories or any other finishing work, and Likewise at the same time agreed with Joseph Ingraham to give him ten shillings for one year to Look after the meeting-hous, to sweep it and keep it clean." Four years later the price for this work had advanced to thirteen shillings per year.

In 1715 a ministerial barn was built by order of the town.

The second minister in town was Rev. Ebenezer White. He was chosen by the people July 18, 1715. August 27, 1716, "the town very unanimously agreed *four*[1] pounds, and he himself to provide himself firewood, the one half in money and the other half in grain or beef or pork or butter or cheese all good and merchantable at current price with us. This to be annually."

Mr. White was the son of James White, of Dorchester, Mass. He was born July 3, 1685, and baptized July 12. He graduated at Harvard College in 1704. He was ordained here October 17, 1716, having supplied the pulpit for some time previous to his settlement. He was minister of the town eleven years and remained here till his death, September 4, 1726. So far as appears, he gave general satisfaction. He married Abigail Paine and had several children — Hannah, who married Joseph Guild, November 11, 1741; Martha, Edward, Experience, and Thankful, and two others who died infants.

Besides his regular salary, Mr. White acquired a title to the ministerial farm and house, so called, by having remained the town minister the length of time required by the grant.

At a meeting of the proprietors of the North Purchase, September 16, 1707, it was unanimously voted "that the surveyors with the major part of the committee should forthwith lay out a hundred acres of land within said Purchase, which shall be the first settled minister's in Attleborough, that continueth to be their minister for the space of seven years; said land to be said minister's, and his heirs and assigns forever." — *N. P. Rec. 2d Book, p. 3. Laid out and recorded 1st Book, p. 197–199.*

Several other grants and gifts have been made to the town for the use of the ministry.

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[1] This sum is so small, the record must be erroneous. Probably the four should be forty, even then a smaller salary than was paid to the former minister. — EDITOR.

The ministerial lot, which has been a subject of so much controversy in modern days, was granted at an adjourned meeting of the proprietors held at Rehoboth June 29, 1685, in the words following: "It was likewise voted and agreed upon (nemine contradicente,) that a hundred acres of land be forthwith laid out at the Seven Mile River, where Rice Leonard's lot was, and as near adjacent as may be; which said hundred acres of land perpetually to be reserved for the Ministry." — *Rehoboth Town Rec. 2d B. p. 48. Bounds recorded N. P. Rec. 1st B. p. 197.* Also see *2d Vol. p. 28.* Ministerial lot laid out January 5, 1727–28.

As before mentioned, the lot where the first meetinghouse stood was given by Lieutenant Moses Read.

"Oct. 16, 1712. Laid out to Lieut. Moses Read two acres of land by the meeting house; bounded south, the stated road; east, the foot of the hill · north, the land of the heirs of Christopher Hall; west, the country road. The above said land the said Lieut. Read gave to the town of Attleborough for public use forever, and ordered it so to be put on record, as is attest by me.

"DANIEL SMITH, *Clerk.*"

R. N. P. Rec. 1st B. p. 302.

"Allowance for a highway through said lot."

R. N. P. Rec. 2d B. p. 129.

November 1, 1734. "Noah Carpenter, Sen. and Caleb Hall of Attleborough, in consideration of love, good will and affection which we have and do bear towards the church and congregation of the said Attleborough, called by the name of the Presbyterian, have given, granted, conveyed etc. unto them their heirs and assigns forever, that is to be understood for the especial use, benefit and privilege of that society forever, a certain tract of land containing about forty-five rods, where the new meeting house now stands, bounded by the said Carpenter's and the said Hall's lands and by the country road," etc. — *R. N. P. Rec. 2d B. p. 126, and 129.* March 15, 1725, the town passed the following resolution: "Where as there is a Church Now settled in ye Town of Attle. Commonly Called a presbeterian Church which all Inhabitants of ye Town are by ye Law of this province obliged to support and whereas there is sume of ye Inhabitants of ye Town that Do belong to other Churches, who Differ from ye sd Church in Attleboro: in their princables, and ye Inhabitants of sd Attleboro being Desirous to Treat them as they themselves should be willing to be Treated in such Like Cause, are freely willing that all such persons as Now Do or hereafter shall belong to other Churches of Diferent princaples as aforesd. Shall be freed from bearing Cost & Charge with ye Rest of ye Inhabitants of sd Town Respecting ye Support of Ye Church in Attlebor', provided that all such persons Belonging to other Churches as aforesd Do Make it appear to ye select Men of sd Town in the month of August yearly as they shall be aded to any other Churches as

aforesd: by Bringing Certificats from ye Elders or Techers of ye Respectivily belong to that they do belong to their Church or Churches and are in full Communion with them; and this voat is to be in force untill ye Town by a vote shall make Void ye Same."

October 11, 1726. "And then ye Town voted that they would Chouze some persons of ye Town to Joyn with such persons as ye Church in sd Town should appoint to be a Committee to Take Care & provide a suitable person to be a pasture or minister of ye Church & Town: that is to Take Care untill such Time as a vote of sd Church & Town shall be Necessary as to ye Resettlement of a Gospel minister in sd Town." Four persons were chosen from the church, namely: Deacon John Fuller, Deacon Mayhew Daggett, Mr. Benjamin Slack, Mr. Samuel Tyler; and four from the town, namely: Captain Daniel Read, Captain John Foster, Mr. Samuel Day, Mr. Noah Carpenter.

"On ye Last Day of June Anno Domini, 1727, at a meeting held, the Town Did unanimously Concur with the Churche's vote in ye Choice of ye sd Mr. Habijah Weld to be their minister." He was to receive "one hundred pounds in money or in Bills of paper creditt yearly During ye Term of his Natural Life in ye Work of the ministry within sd Town, and Likewise ye ministerial Lott the house & Barn and all other privileges to the same belonging during the above term — and for his further encouragement the town doth freely agree and vote; that they will give to the said Mr. Weld, two hundred pounds in money, or one hundred and fifty pounds in money and fourty acres of land lying on each side the road between the meeting house and David Fullers, either of which he the said Mr. Weld shall ye cause to accept of and it is further voted and agreed that the hundred pounds above said is all wages to hold ye same in vallue as it is this day. Allowing paper creditt at fourteen shillings for one ounce of silver and so to rise or fall as paper creditt shall rise or fall in proportion as above said" —

Just before Mr. Weld came the town voted to choose a committee "to repair ye ministerial house and fence."

Mr. Weld accepted the pastorate in the following manner: —

ATTLEBOROUGH, September 28, 1727.

To the Church and people of Church in Attleborough

Greeting, Whereas ye have manifested your Love to and Respect for me in Choosing me for ye pastorial office among you, (Notwithstanding my unworthyness of your Esteem, and of an employ in a work so Sacred and Honorable,) I Do now testify my Gratitude to you for ye Respect shewn me and my Compliance with your Request to settle with you upon ye Terms you have proposed: but in Case my Necessities should increase upon me, so that my Salary be insufficient for my Maintainance I shall Depend upon you for ye addition of what shall be Convenient for my Comfortable and Honorable Subsistance During my Continuance with you as a minister of ye Gospel, and inasmuch as ye have Generously granted me 200 pounds money, or a Hundred and fifty pounds in money and 40 acres of Land for a settlement, and have given me ye Liberty of Chousing that which shall be most agreeable to me, I Do now Declare that I make Choice of and shall Gratefully accept of Land with ye 150 pounds in money, and as ye have made such provision for my Support while I shall Continue among you so I shall think it my

Duty to Lay out myself to ye utmost of my ability to promote your spiritual and Eternal welfare. I am sensible of my own weakness and inability to Discharge ye Duties of ye ministerial office; but my Dependance is upon ye Grace of God which I hope will be sufficient for me. I beg an interest in your prayers that ye God of all grace would furnish me with all those Gifts and Graces of his spirit as shall be sufficient to Render me an able as well as a faithful minister of ye New Testament, and it shall be my Constant Request at ye Throne of Grace that God will make Continual additions to this Church of such as Shall be Saved whilst I am yours in ye Service of ye Gospel. Habijah Weld.

Rev. Mr. Weld was the third minister of Attleborough and was distinguished for his usefulness in the ministry and highly respected as a man both at home and abroad. He united to an uncommon degree the affections of his people for the long period of nearly fifty-five years during which he was their pastor. He was a man of talents and respectable acquirements and was extensively known. His character deserves a more particular notice.

He was born in Dunstable,[1] Mass., September 2, 1702, the son of Rev. Thomas Weld and Mary Savage,[2] his second wife. He graduated at Cambridge University in 1723 and was ordained [3] pastor of the First Church and congregation in this town, October 1, 1727. He died May 14, 1782, in the eightieth year of his age and the fifty-fifth of his ministry. The following notice [4] of his character is extracted from a communication in *Dr. Dwight's Travels*, from the Hon. David Daggett, late Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut and Senator in Congress.

"Mr. Weld was above rather than below the middle stature; he was noble in form and dignified in his deportment, scrupulously polite, never omitting small attentions to those about him, yet paying those attentions in a manner that never lessened his own dignity." Dr. Daggett's account says: "In the latter part of his life he was corpulent. His constitution was vigorous, and his mind almost singularly energetic. The stipend which he received from his parishioners consisted of an annual salary of two hundred and twenty dollars,[5] and the use of a parsonage lot, which furnished him with wood, and a little pasture. With his patrimony he purchased a farm of about seventy acres of moderately good land, and a decent house. He had fifteen children, ten of whom were married during his life and one after his death. The remaining four died while young. This numerous family he educated with the means which have been mentioned in a manner superior to what is usually found in similar circumstances, entertained much company in a style

[1] See Savage, Vol. 4, p. 473.

[2] She was the daughter of Habijah Savage, whose mother was Hannah, daughter of the first Edward Tyng. Mrs. Weld died June 2, 1731. She is referred to as "aged mother."

[3] See Town Records, 3d B., p. 43.

[4] The description of his personal appearance is as given to the author by a great-granddaughter of Mr. Weld. Her father intended to correct the errors in Dr. Dwight's account, but the intention was not fulfilled.

[5] It would seem that Mr. Weld's "Necessities," mentioned by anticipation in his letter of acceptance, had increased and in consequence his salary also.

of genuine hospitality, and was always prepared to contribute to the necessities of others.

"For the regulation of his domestic concerns Mr. Weld prescribed to himself and his family a fixed system of rules, which were invariably observed and contributed not a little to the pleasantness and prosperity of his life. His children, laborers, and servants submitted to them with cheerfulness, and his house became the seat of absolute industry, peace, and good order. Breakfast was on the table precisely at six o'clock; dinner, at twelve; and supper, at six in the evening. After supper he neither made visits himself nor permitted any of his family to make them.

"His observation of the Sabbath was peculiarly exemplary. He permitted no acts to be done in his house on that day except such as were acts of necessity and mercy in the strictest sense.

"Mr. Weld was naturally of a very ardent disposition. Yet, so entirely had he acquired an ascendency over his temper, that a censurable or imprudent act is not known to have been done by him, nor an improper word uttered. To vice and licentiousness in every form he gave no indulgence either in his conversation or his public instructions. On the contrary, idleness, intemperance, profaneness, and all kinds of immoral conduct were reproved by him with undeviating severity. His example in the practice of every virtue was such as to create in all classes of men entire veneration for his character. It is doubted whether any person ever uttered a reproach against Mr. Weld.

"Nor was his piety less remarkable. Since the days of the Apostles, it is questioned whether his zeal, fidelity, and intrepidity in the cause of his divine Master have been excelled. During the long period of fifty-five years he was never once detained from the pulpit by disease nor from any other of his pastoral duties. His prayers were wholly formed by himself and adapted with strict propriety to the various occasions on which they were made. They were pertinent, solemn, and impressive. His sermons were written, and were usually delivered without variation from his notes. Yet at times he addressed his congregation extemporaneously in a manner eminently forcible and affecting.

"In his parochial visits he was accustomed to address the truths and duties of the gospel to the hearts and consciences of the family and never lost sight of the eternal interests of his congregation. And, while he administered the balm of life to the wounded spirit, he addressed the most solemn alarms, as well as the most pungent reproofs, to stubbornness and impiety.

"Mr. Weld continued his labors to the Sabbath before his death without any visible decline in his powers either of body or mind. On that Sabbath he preached two sermons from these words: 'He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned.' On the Tuesday following he rode in his chaise to Providence, ten miles, returned about four o'clock in the afternoon, walked into the house; told his wife that

he was unwell, requested her to open a window, as he found a difficulty in breathing, sat down, and instantly expired of an Apoplexy. So well were his secular concerns arranged for his departure that the settlement of his estate cost less than five dollars. His excellent wife survived him many years and died after she had passed the age of ninety, universally lamented.

"At the death of Mr. Weld only one of his congregation was living, of those who assisted in his settlement. His parishioners showed their sense of the loss which they sustained in his death by a universal mourning." (The town voted to assume the funeral expenses.)

"The house of this gentleman was the resort of many distinguished persons from Boston, Providence, and various other parts of New England, and in no house were they received and treated with more hospitality. His manners were at once dignified and polite, and every member of his family was courteous and well bred. Nothing was seen among them but harmony and good will.

"That with such an income Mr. Weld could support so large a family and live in so hospitable a manner will certainly excite not a little wonder. The explanation is found in his industry, regularity, and exactness in all his concerns. Everything was managed in such a manner that almost in the literal sense nothing was lost.

"'In my opinion,' adds Mr. D., 'Mr. Weld was a more strict observer of the divine law and more eminently holy than any man whom I ever knew.'

"'Permit me to subjoin,' says Dr. Dwight, 'that if all clergymen sustained the same character and lived in the same manner the world would speedily assume a new aspect and its inhabitants a new character.'"

Mr. Weld married[1] Mary Fox, of Woburn, who died January 7, 1799, in the ninety-third year of her age. He had by her fifteen children, four sons and eleven daughters, several of whom were married, as follows: Jonathan Philbrook, of Boston, to Dorothy Weld, August 7, 1759; Rev. Oliver Noble, of Newburyport, to Lucy Weld, May 15, 1760; Dr. Cardee Parker, of Coventry, Conn., to Mary Weld, April 15, 1762, by Habijah Weld; Caleb Fuller, of Windsor, county of Ware, Maine, to Hannah Weld, October 28, 1762; Rev. Ezra Weld to Anna Weld, February 9, 1764; Rev. Oakes Shaw,[2] of Barnstable, to Elizabeth Weld, July 19, 1764; Rev. Timothy Alden,[3] of Yarmouth, to Sarah Weld, November 20, 1770; Eliphaz Day, of Attleborough, to Eunice Weld.

Mr. Weld was buried at South Attleborough within his own parish, and his wife also. On his gravestone is the following inscription:—

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[1] "The Rev. Mr. Habijah Weld of Attleborough, and Miss Mary Fox of Woburn, Intentions of marriage entered Aug. 30th, 1728."

[2] Rev. Oakes Shaw, grandfather of Charles J. Shaw.

[3] Rev. Timothy Alden was the author of American Epitaphs in 3 Vols.

The Remains of the Rev. Habijah Weld
M. A. late the faithful, worthy and be-
loved pastor of the first Church of Christ
in Attleborough.
He was born Sept. 2d, 1702
He was ordained Oct. 1st, 1727
He died May 14th, 1782, in the 80th year
of his age, and the 55th of his pastorate.

Farewell, vain world, as thou hast been to me,
Dust and a shadow — these I leave with thee,
The unseen vital substance I commit
To him that 's Substance, Life, Light, Love to it.

The following is the inscription on his wife's gravestone: —

January 7th, 1799,
Departed this life, Mrs. Mary Weld
Relict to the late Rev. Habijah Weld
of Attleborough, in the 93d year of
her age.

Passenger, aspire to her age,
But to imitate her life
As a real ornament
To the Christian profession.

In 1728 a new meetinghouse was built by the town. May 13, 1728, the town voted to enlarge the meetinghouse by making an addition of twenty feet to the north end. But in September following sixty-two individuals engaged by subscription to advance the sum of £234 10s., in addition to their proportion of the taxes, towards defraying the expenses of a new meeting-house, if the town would agree to build anew, instead of enlarging the old house. This money was to be paid within the space of one year and eight months; and timber, boards, etc., these men would furnish at the marketable prices, "All which when advanced as above sd. shall be for ye use of ye Whole Town as absolutely as though the Town by a Tax had done sd. work."

The town accordingly voted November 28, 1728, to build a new meeting-house and ordered it to be fifty feet in length, forty feet in breadth, and of a suitable height for one tier of galleries, and that it "shall stand on a little hill on the north side of the Pound, about fifteen or sixteen rods from the old meeting house." It was also voted "that those parts of the town which may be hereafter set off as a precinct or town shall have the money repaid to them, which they now pay towards the new meeting house."

The town constituted one parish until April 7, 1743, when it was divided into "two distinct and separate" parishes or precincts by an act of the Legislature. The west constituted the *first*, and the east the *second* precinct.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE FIRST PARISH.

The ministerial house and lands were sold in 1737.

September 18, 1744. The sum of £12 14s. was granted to the second precinct. This was probably a part of their share in the meetinghouse.

March 27, 1777.[1] The salary of their minister, Mr. Weld, was £66 13s. 4d. September 21, 1779. Voted to raise Rev. Mr. Weld's salary to $600. Paper currency was much depreciated. September 29, 1779, voted to double his salary for the year.

March 28, 1780. A meeting was called "to see if the Precinct will apply to some one to assist Mr. Weld, in the work of the ministry, under his present indisposition of body," etc. "Voted that the two Deacons see that the pulpit is supplied in case Mr. Weld is unable to preach." Any labors in this direction were unnecessary, as has been seen.

June 3, 1782. A meeting was held "to see if the Precinct will agree to pay the funeral charges of the Rev. Mr. Weld, late of Attleborough, deceased." This was done. 2d. "To see if the Precinct will choose a committee to seek a supply occasioned by the death of our late Pastor."

From this time till the settlement of Mr. Wilder in 1790 — nearly eight years — the parish was destitute of a settled minister. The people were very much divided on this subject. Many unsuccessful attempts were made to settle a minister; numerous candidates were called, but the people could make no choice. They had been long united and harmonious under the ministry of Mr. Weld; some diversity of opinion and alienation of feeling were to be expected after so long a calm.

August 27, 1782. Voted "to hire Rev. Mr. Morey six weeks longer." October 30, 1782, a meeting was called "to see if the Precinct will give Mr. Morey a call to settle in the ministry." 1st. "Voted to give him a call." 2d. "Voted to re-consider it."

February 26, 1783. Voted "to treat with a committee in second Precinct relative to Ministerial Lands." There was a dispute between the two parishes for a long time in regard to their relative rights to these lands, which was finally terminated, I believe, by payment of a certain sum to the second parish. At the same meeting, "voted to hire Rev. Mr. Bradford three months." Voted "to buy one hundred sermons, delivered by Rev. Mr. Thacher,[2] on the death of Rev. Mr. Weld." Voted "to apply to Rev. Mr. Spalding, of Killingly, Conn. to come and preach a few weeks." August 18, 1783. Voted "to send to the President[3] of Yale College to send us a candidate." He accordingly sent them a young man who, it appears, was not acceptable. October 29, 1783. "Voted to choose a committee to consult lawyer Bradford[4] concerning the Ministerial Lands."

[1] The last meeting under the Provincial Government — March, 1776 — was warned as usual "In the name of his Majesty, the King of England," etc.; but the next one, 17th September, was warned "In the name of these States, and in behalf of the good people of this Province," etc.

[2] The first settled minister of the second precinct. It was delivered before Mr. Weld's parishioners the Sabbath after his death, and published.

[3] Rev. Naphtali Daggett, of this town, which is the reason of their application to him.

[4] This Bradford was afterwards Lieutenant-Governor of Rhode Island, a man very popular at that time in his profession. He was a descendant of Governor Bradford. See Mr. Ryder's Biographical Notice.

December 15, 1783, Rev. Mr. Britt was preaching as a candidate; subsequently Rev. Mr. Avery, then a Mr. March, Mr. Hart, of Preston, Conn., Mr. Damon, Mr. Plum. "Voted to send for Mr. Huntington to preach for us." Before the arrival of Mr. Wilder many other names of candidates appear. So irreconcilable were the feelings or opinions, or both, of the parish that it seemed next to impossible to make a selection. So great was the distress of the people amidst their divisions that they at last appointed a "Fast on account of their present difficulties." In this they hit upon the right expedient, for it seemed to have a very happy effect, as they soon after agreed on a candidate, the Rev. John Wilder, who at a meeting January 4, 1790, gave an answer accepting the proposals of the parish, which terminated their long and troublesome contest.

Mr. Wilder was born in Templeton, Conn., March 12, 1758. His parents were Jonas and Elizabeth Wilder, who removed to Lancaster (N. H.?) in 1776. He graduated at Dartmouth College in 1784, studied theology with Dr. Hart, of Preston, Conn., and was ordained here January 27, 1790. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Levi Hart, his theological instructor, and was published September 2, 1790. Mr. Wilder married Esther Tyler, daughter of Colonel Samuel Tyler, of Preston, Conn. She died January 19, 1811. His second wife was Mrs. Elizabeth Austin, of New Hartford, Conn., sister of Dr. E. D. Griffin. She died at Austingburg in March, 1847, aged seventy-two.

Mr. Wilder published several addresses: "A Discourse on the Federal Fast," delivered May 9, 1798, printed by Nathaniel and Benjamin Heaton at Wrentham; an "Address to the Attleborough Agricultural Society," etc., delivered February 22, 1805, printed at Providence by Heaton and Williams; a funeral sermon on the death of Elisha May, November, 1811; "A Funeral Discourse on the Death of Dea. Lane."

Mr. Wilder was dismissed November 28, 1822. He had been the settled minister of the parish upwards of thirty-two years. He died February 12, 1836. He left numerous children. One daughter, Eliza, married Hon. Lemuel May, of this town. She died in 1831, aged thirty-nine. Mr. Wilder was buried in this town, and Rev. Elisha Fiske, of Wrentham, preached his funeral sermon. The inscription on his gravestone is as follows: —

Rev. John Wilder,
An able and devoted Minister
of Jesus Christ, and for
more than 33 years,
Pastor of the First
Congregational Church
in this town.
Died Feb. 12th, 1836,
Aged 77 years.

To him succeeded Rev. Thomas Williams, formerly of Connecticut, who was installed September 29, 1824. His connection with the parish was dissolved December 11, 1827.

The next settled minister was Rev. Charles J. Warren, who was ordained February 28, 1828, and dismissed July 9, 1830. He died in New York in 1883, aged eighty-six.

After the dismissal of Mr. Warren, Rev. Mr. Chapin became the pastor. He was over the church from 1830 to 1833. To him in the latter year succeeded the Rev. Samuel Colburn. He died in New York, December 19, 1854. Rev. Mr. Ober was the pastor in 1837.

Rev. John M. B. Bailey was the next pastor. He was born in Dunbarton, N. H., June 5, 1807, the son of William and Susannah Bailey. He spent some years in the family of his uncle, Rev. Abraham Burnham, D.D., of Pembroke. From an early age he earnestly desired to obtain a collegiate education and to enter one of the learned professions. He prosecuted his studies for a time under great difficulties, both from ill health and restricted means, and finally abandoned the idea of a college course and entered a lawyer's office in Albany, N. Y. At the end of three years, instead of commencing the practice of the law, he entered the Theological Seminary at Gilmanton, N. H., to study for the ministry. He remained there four years. He was licensed to preach by the Suffolk North Association, April 23, 1839. After a time he came to this parish to preach as a candidate and soon received a call to become pastor of the church.

He was ordained here December 30, 1840, Professor Warner, from Gilmanton, coming to preach the sermon. His ministry lasted but ten years, and during all that time his feeble health was the cause of hindrances and interruptions in his work. At the end of the tenth year he resigned his charge, the resignation being sent to the society from his sick-room. He died February 24, 1851, after a protracted and painful illness.

He married in 1841 Sarah M., daughter of Deacon Caleb Johnson, of Manchester, N. H. She died at Wallaston, Maine, June 7, 1885, and was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery by the side of her husband.

Mr. Bailey prepared an address for the consecration of Mount Hope Cemetery, which took place July 2, 1850. This was read on the occasion, he being too feeble to deliver it himself. After his death it was published.

Rev. Mr. Blodgett, of Pawtucket, in preaching Mr. Bailey's funeral sermon, said: "He had done his work. And our wonder is, that he was so long enabled to sustain at all the labors of the ministry, and to accomplish as much as he did. He was a man of *undoubted* piety. The most intimate and familiar acquaintance has left the conviction undoubted, that he was a man of deep religious experience, of ardent and thorough piety.

"The deceased was candid, cautious, and conscientious in his judgment of men, their opinions, character, motives and acts. Holding his own views

with a sufficient firmness and self-reliance, he would tolerate a difference of views in others, without severe reprehension, or cold repulsion.

"A favorite object with him, not only for the accommodation of his own family, but for the good of the church and society, and the comfort of his successors in the pastoral office, was the erection of a parsonage. This object he lived to see accomplished very much to his mind, in the commodious house, from which he was carried to the house appointed for all the living.

"His services, as a preacher, in all the pulpits of this vicinity, were ever highly acceptable and creditable both to his intellect and his heart. In his Association he was a 'Brother beloved' and respected for Christian candor, courtesy and benevolence, — for his exhibition of so much of the 'meekness and gentleness of Christ,' and for his attainments in Christian theology, and religious experience."

Mr. Bailey died at the age of forty-three, "universally respected and much lamented." He had taken an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, "especially in the cause of common school education." As a man his character was appreciated and his labors estimated at their proper value. After his death the choice of a lot was offered Mrs. Bailey by the proprietors of Mount Hope Cemetery. A subscription was started, to which generous responses were made, sufficient to procure a handsome monument. On July 2, 1851, the anniversary of the dedication, his remains were removed to the cemetery "and the monument erected with appropriate ceremonies."

"It is a shaft, seven feet high, of white marble, and contains the following expressive inscription: —

In Memory of
Rev. John M. B. Bailey,
Pastor of the First Congregational Church in Attleborough;
Born in Dunbarton, N. H., June 5, 1807,
Ordained Dec. 30, 1840,
Died Feb. 24, 1851, aged 43 years;
Author of the Address for the Consecration of this Cemetery,
July 2, 1850.
Which now opens its portals to enshrine his remains
among its earliest tenants.

This Monument is erected by the Citizens of Attleborough,
as a token of their gratitude for
his services in the cause of Education, their high
respect for the many
virtues of his ministerial and private life, their deep
regret for his early decease, and their
lasting regard for his
memory.

'Let me die the death of the Righteous,
And let my last end be like his.'"

Rev. S. B. Morly was ordained here July 9, 1851, and dismissed March 25, 1857.

Rev. B. C. Chase, of Camden, Maine, was acting pastor from August 23, 1857, to December 25, 1862, and Rev. David Breed from March 1, 1863, to March 1, 1866.

Rev. H. P. De Forest came to the church in January, 1867, and was dismissed in January, 1869.

The next was the present pastor, the Rev. John Whitehill. He was born in Paisley, Scotland, August 11, 1833, and came to this country with his father's family when he was eleven years of age. He fitted for college partly under the private instruction of Rev. George A. Oviatt, of Chicopee, Mass., and partly at Monson Academy, from which institution he went to Amherst College in 1854. He graduated in 1858 and went immediately to Andover Theological Seminary, graduating from there in 1861.

Before leaving the seminary he had been invited to preach at the Congregational church in South Wilbraham, now Hampden, Mass. He commenced his labors there as soon as his course of study was completed, and was ordained and installed there December 11 of the same year, 1861. In 1867 he offered his resignation, but withdrew it at the solicitation of his people and remained another year. In June, 1868, having been again presented, his resignation was accepted.

After this he preached for a few months in the Presbyterian church in Liverpool, N. Y. (near Syracuse), but his father's death in the autumn of 1868 recalled him to the east. His labors in this town began in the spring of 1869, about March 28, a few months after his predecessor, Rev. Mr. De Forest, had left the church.

Mr. Whitehill at once identified himself with the interests not only of his church and parish, but with those of the entire town. He has been repeatedly elected to positions of trust, and almost continuously since becoming a resident, besides laboring faithfully and acceptably among his own people, he has been actively engaged in public work for the town.

He was chosen a member of the school committee in 1870 and was chairman of the same until 1875, in which year he resigned the position. In 1883 he was reëlected a member of the school committee, continuing until November, 1885, when he again resigned. He was chairman of the building committee which in 1881 erected the two town High School buildings, and held the same position when in 1884 three new buildings were erected of a sufficient capacity to accommodate ten of the common schools.

In 1882 he was chosen Representative to the State Legislature and the following year was reëlected to the same office. The nomination to this position was unsolicited on the part of Mr. Whitehill. It was entirely the gift of his fellow-citizens, a proof of their confidence and regard and worthy of special notice in these days of vote buyers and public office speculators.

November 28, 1861, Mr. Whitehill was married to Clara J. Hunt, of Sudbury, Mass. She died November 8, 1865, leaving one son, Edwin

Hunt Whitehill, born October 30, 1865, and a graduate from Amherst College in the class of 1887. May 4, 1869, Mr. Whitehill married Lizzie A. Parmenter, of Sudbury. Their children are Clara, born June 14, 1870; Florence, born June 1, 1872, died July 31, 1873; Robert, born May 5, 1874; Alfred, born July 8, 1876; Miriam, born January 22, 1879; Walter, born April 16, 1881; Hilda, born May 3, 1883: Philip, born February 10, 1886. (Mrs. Whitehill died January 13, 1890.)

The present meetinghouse is the third in this society and was built in the summer of 1828, the building before built, the second, having stood just a century. It was dedicated January 1, 1829, and is now substantially the same as when first erected. Externally there have been no alterations, and internally only slight changes, such as removing pew doors, lowering the pulpit platform, making space for the large organ, and decorating with more modern paint and paper, with carpets to correspond, such as the taste of the present day demands.

Some of the oldtime customs of this church and society are still kept up. Mr. Henry F. May, who has been chorister for many years, still leads the singing "on the Lord's day," and Mrs. May presides at the organ. The annual, cheerful social gathering of friends and former residents of the parish with the present dwellers therein still continues. The mere mention of the clambake of Red Rock Hill will call a host of pleasant recollections to many minds. One lady, a native of the parish, but a resident of the east precinct for many years, tells with pride that she has attended twenty-three of these gatherings. May she be spared to attend yet more.

A curious fact is related of the old parsonage house in which Mr. Weld — the pastor for above half a century — dwelt. Mr. Samuel Dunster, the present occupant, when taking down the great square chimney some years since, found in it part of a gravestone with the name Weld inscribed upon it. The conjecture is that "the stone must have been spoiled in the making" and then utilized by being built into the house chimney, a conjecture entirely consistent with what we know of Mr. Weld and, indeed, of the times, when of necessity the people literally fulfilled the scriptural injunction to "gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost."

The Drapers still follow the time-honored fashion of having a family gathering on Thanksgiving Day. Of the fourteen children in the present family who lived to grow up, the youngest is over fifty years of age; the oldest is still living — as are several between — and is still prominent in this society.

There are no means of ascertaining the number of the original members of the First Church. There were upwards of thirty families in the town at the time of its incorporation. As a larger proportion of the inhabitants in those days were church members than is the case at the present time, a conjecture may be made as to the membership. Allowing but one and a small fraction

to each family, there may probably at the formation have been about forty members; and seventeen years later, when the first minister was settled, this number may have been somewhat increased.

For thirty years this was the only church in town, and during that period its membership doubtless increased considerably. Twice it has dismissed quite a number of its members to form other churches in town, as will be seen in accounts following. It is still the only church "within a radius of about three miles," but its situation prevents its having large additions to its society. This is in a less populous part of the town than formerly. Few occupations offer themselves there as means of livelihood or of success in life, and therefore many of the young people emigrate.

The church has at present sixty-eight members, with an average congregation of one hundred and a Sabbath-school averaging an attendance of ninety-five (1887).

BETHANY CHAPEL.

During the past thirty years religious services have been held in the schoolhouse at South Attleborough, it being difficult for all living there who desired to do so to attend the church at "Old Town" on account of its distance from the former village. In 1874 a Sunday-school was started by Rev. Mr. Whitehill, assisted by two young ladies of the village, and in 1882 it was decided to commence raising a fund to build a chapel.

Early in the year 1886 this fund amounted to $1,500, and at that time land was given by Mr. William Coupe. On October 15 of that year a society was organized and incorporated by law, calling itself the "Bethany Chapel Association." Its president was William Coupe; vice-president, William P. Shaw; secretary and treasurer, Damon A. White; and nine trustees were elected, three of them being ladies.

Generous hearts have prompted busy hands, and their earnest, continued work has for its result an attractive and sufficiently commodious chapel building. It is fifty-six feet long, thirty-five feet wide, contains an audience room and a Sunday-school room, over which is a small gallery. It is well finished, and furnished in good taste, with all the appointments modern demands now make necessary, including a basement room "for social purposes," with a kitchen convenient, "well supplied with all that is necessary in such a place."

The cost of the building, furnace, etc., was $3,900, of which amount all but $1,000 has been paid. Gifts above this amount have been presented, of fully $800 in value. Besides giving the land, Mr. Coupe gave the seats; Mr. A. A. White, a handsome chandelier of twenty lamps, and the wall lamps; the South Attleborough Mission School presented the organ; and Mr. Asa Robinson gave the pulpit chairs. The pulpit, Bible, bookcase, and basement furnishings are also gifts. The value of the chapel and land is $5,000, and the people of the village deserve great credit for their activity and earnestness in the good work of obtaining the so much needed place of worship.

The dedication took place on the evening of April 14, 1887, and a large audience from all parts of the town, from Pawtucket, Providence, and other places, filled the building. The exercises were interesting and included much fine music. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. H. P. De Forest, of Taunton. An historical sketch was read by Mr. Damon White, in which among other interesting facts it was stated that on the first Sabbath in June, 1882, it was announced in the Sunday-school that fifty cents per week of the contributions should be given to the Woman's Board of Missions, and the remainder be kept toward the building of the chapel. On that Sunday the contribution was fifty-two cents. The two pennies were compared to a snow-ball, which ever increases as it rolls, until it finally becomes very large; and so the school had been adding pennies and dollars, until at that time the "chapel ball" amounted to $762.50, a large sum compared with the small beginning and the length of time the ball had been rolling.

So once again the old "First Church" sends forth another group of her children to work in the "good old way" for the world's welfare, but this time — though they have a home of their own — she still keeps them, in a measure, under her own fostering care, and they may still gather under the old roof which has sheltered them so long, near the spot where our fathers first gathered in Attleborough for the public worship of God.

EAST PARISH. — THE SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

This parish, by a division of the whole into two parts, was separated from the other April 7, 1743, nearly one hundred and fifty years ago. This was done by an act of the Legislature.

The towns originally in this State constituted the religious societies, but in the course of time, as population increased, these were divided territorially — and by metes and bounds — and all the inhabitants within these minutely described territorial limits who had been admitted freemen were members of the societies. This was at a time when there were no religious divisions among the people. But in the course of time religious distinctions arose, and various provisions were made as they became necessary to meet these exigencies.

The division of this town into two territorial parishes in 1743 was not made in consequence of any religious differences, none such having then arisen, but wholly on account of the great inconvenience to many of the inhabitants of attending public worship at such a great distance from their homes. This will be readily understood when it is remembered that at the time of its incorporation and up to this time, a period of almost fifty years, Attleborough included what is now Cumberland, R. I.,— an area of over seventy square miles in all, — and the only meetinghouse within its limits was the one at Oldtown, whose history has just been traced.

The following is the Act[1] of the Legislature by which the East Parish was formed: —

An act of the Grate and Genaral Court of this his majestie's province of the massachusetts Bay in New ingland for making the Easterly part of Attleborough and the Northeasterly part of Rehoboth in to a destinct and seperate precinct acording to the bounds as followeth — Beginning at a heep of stones being the westerly corner of the Town of Norton which stands in the Town of Stoughton Township, from thence running westerly on Stoughton line till it comes to the foot of the hill called Ten mile hill — thence southerly on a straight line two rods to the west of John Sweets barn, thence southerly on a straight line to a rock in Ten mile river — said rock being a bounds between the land of Henry Tollman and Jacob Ide — and from thence southerly on a straight line till it comes to a grate rock and Blackoak Tree standing near said rock marked with the letter (*R*) which is East from the Dwelling house of Robart Titus in said Attleborough — from thence on Rehoboth line half a mile. Then turning and running south one mile to a corner — Then turning and running East one degree North till it meets or comes to the Easterly Bounds of the old Town of Rehoboth — then on a straight line Northerly on said old Bounds to the South Corner of the Town of Norton Being a Cedar Tree and then Bounding on said Norton line till it comes to the first mentioned Corner.

In the house of Representatives April ye 6: 1743. Red and voted that the Inhabitance of the Easterly part of the Town of Attleborough with their lands and Estates lying within the Boundaries mentioned in the petition Together with such of the Inhabitance and their Estates Lying in the Northerly part of Rehoboth as shall signifie their consent to go off to said precinct. To the parson to be apointed their Clerk within six months hereafter. Be and hereby are set off a distinct and seperate precinct and are vested with all priveledges and Immunities that other precincts are by Law Intitled to: acordingly sent up for concurence: T. Cushing, Speker.

In Council April ye
7th 1743

Read & Concur'd
J. Willerd, Sect'ry.

Consented to. W. Shirley.

The first meeting of the parish was held June 6, 1743. It was called by Ephraim Leonard and held at Thomas Cooper's house for choice of officers, etc. Thomas French was chosen moderator, and Thomas Wilmarth clerk. Thomas Wilmarth, Thomas French, and David Shepardson were chosen assessors and standing committee. On the twentieth of the same month a meeting was called "to consider and see what the parish will do in order to placing a meeting house for the public worship of God." This is the first record of an attempt to build a meetinghouse in this part of the town. At the same time a committee was chosen "to agree with Mr. Willis, or some other man for the present." It was also voted "to choose a committee of two who should apply, in the first place, to Rev. Mr. Willis, and if he cannot be obtained, then to Mr. Read, and if he cannot be obtained, then to Mr. Peter Thacher."

At said meeting it was voted to set their meetinghouse on the plain "where the roads meet or cross each other."

[1] This Act is copied from the "Town Records," and the use of capitals and punctuation followed as there found, as also incorrect spelling. — EDITOR.

It appears by the records of the next meeting that they had hired Mr. Thacher for a time. He was the first minister who preached here. He commenced August 20, 1743, but was not ordained and settled till November 30, 1748, above five years later.

September 6, 1743, "Voted to proceed forthwith to build a meeting house for the public worship of God." The house was to be thirty-five feet square and high enough for one tier of galleries. A committee was chosen "to carry on the building of said house," consisting of the following gentlemen, namely, John Sweet, Joseph Capron, Stephen Wilmarth, Thomas Sweet, and Obadiah Carpenter. At a subsequent meeting, October 18, 1743, "voted to reconsider the vote relating to the dimensions of the meeting house, and to build one forty-five feet long, and thirty-five feet wide, and high enough for one tier of galleries." This was the size of the house as it was afterwards built. The meetinghouse was commenced in the autumn of this year, but the interior was not finished till several years subsequently. One hundred and fifty pounds was appropriated for the building.

On the 1st of November following, the parish made choice of Rev. Peter Thacher for their minister "by a free vote" and agreed to give him for a salary forty pounds yearly for four years, and at the end of four years to give him fifty pounds per annum, "current money," and also, for a settlement, three hundred pounds, "old tenor," to be paid in four years, that is, one quarter part each year.

December 21, 1747, "Voted to give Mr. Thacher £600 old tenor for his settlement; and also 25 cords of wood yearly."

October 28, 1748. Settled Mr. Thacher's salary at four hundred pounds per annum, old tenor, "reckoning silver money at fifty-five shillings per ounce, and to rise and fall as silver shall rise and fall, so long as he shall continue our minister." At the same time the parish "chose a committee of five to see to the ordination of Rev. Mr. Thacher," which took place the thirtieth of the next month. He continued the pastor until October 26, 1784, when he was dismissed by vote of the parish. He had a few months previous to his dismission suffered an attack of paralysis, which rendered him unable to perform the duties of his station, and of this attack he died September 13, 1785, in the seventieth year of his age. He preached in this town about forty-one years and was a highly respectable and useful man.

He was born in Middleborough January 25, 1715, and was the son of Rev. Peter Thacher, of that place. He graduated at Harvard College in 1737 and was ordained in this place November 30, 1748.

November 31, 1749, he was married to Bethiah, oldest daughter of Obediah Carpenter, of this town, by Rev. Habijah Weld. He had ten children, seven sons and three daughters, and several of his descendants are living in town at the present time.

The following is an account of his coming to Attleborough to preach and of his ordination by Mr. Thacher himself.

"Aug. 20th, 1743, I came to preach to the Professors and others, inhabitants of the Easterly Precinct in Attleborough, upon probation for the work of a gospel minister among them. Nov. 1st, they gave me an Invitation to settle among them as such, — But the death of my Rev. and Hon'd. Father, April 1744, at Middleboro', and a sad, unchristian separation from the church at Attleboro'[1] together with some discouragements of my own, prevented me giving an answer in the affirmative, till Sept. 23, 1748. Nov. 30, A Council of six Churches, viz. The First Church of Christ in Plymouth, the first and second of Wrentham, the Church in Attleboro', the church at Taunton, and the first Church of Christ in Middleborough, convened at the house of Mr. Obadiah Carpenter in the East Precinct in Attleboro' at the desire of the Brethren there for the purpose expressed in their Letter of the eighth instant. The Council opened with prayer, half after ten of the clock A.M. After which the Council proceeded to examine me as to my religious principles, and experiences, and motives to the Work of the ministry in general, and in this place particularly, which being gone through I retired, and in a little time was informed by a messenger from the Council, that they had voted to proceed to the Ordination. Immediately we went to the Meeting house, a little before or about twelve. The meeting was opened with Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Elias Havens. The Rev. Mr. Henry Messenger at my desire preached a Sermon — from — [text not given]. The Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Leonard presided in the *Solemn Embodying* of the Church declared to be the Second regularly constituted Congregational Church of Christ in Attleboro', and then Solemnly gave me the Charge of Them, while his own and the hands of the Rev.s Messenger, Weld, and Havens were imposed. The Rev. Mr. Weld gave the Right Hand of Fellowship."

"Rev. Mr. Thacher descended from a pious and honored ancestry." The progenitor of the family in this country was the Rev. Peter Thacher, of Salisbury (Old Sarum), England, and it is said was prevented from emigrating to this country, himself, only by sickness in his family. He was pastor of St. Edmunds church in that place from 1622 to 1640, the year of his death. The epitaph on his gravestone in the old churchyard there reads thus: "He was a laborious minister in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of St. Edmunds, by the space of XIX years." An intimate friend, one Francis Dove, added to this inscription: "Let not men move his bones. F. D."

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[1] This must refer to a church which came into existence in this town, "with the name of the Separatists, over which Mr. Daniel Shepardson was ordained, January 20, 1747." This reference, found in a historical sketch of the church prepared by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Crane, for the centennial celebration, is the only one seen by the editor. Probably these Separatists had but a short existence as a society.

This Rev. Peter Thacher's son Thomas came to this country in 1635 with an uncle. He was then fifteen years of age. He was educated at Harvard College and subsequently became the first pastor of the Old South Church in Boston. His son Peter became the pastor of the church at Milton, this State.

Peter, the son of Peter of Milton, was the third minister of Middleborough. He married Mary Prince, of Sandwich, and had ten children, of whom Peter, the first minister of the second parish, this town, was the third child and oldest son. A younger son, Oxenbridge Thacher, was "an attorney of eminence" in Boston. Of him President John Adams said: "He was the *second* who gave the *first* impulse to the Ball of Independence, the first being James Otis."

"The descendant of such an honored ancestry, Mr. Thacher is the progenitor of a list, reaching now to the third and fourth generation of those who profess the same faith, and some of whom are called to preach the same precious gospel."

Mr. Thacher published a "Discourse on the Death of Rev. Mr. Weld," which has been reprinted. A small volume of his sermons, containing one hundred and fourteen pages, was also republished in 1798 (by his son), entitled "Select Discourses on Practical Subjects, by Peter Thacher, A.M., late Pastor of the Church at Attleborough." It was printed at Leominster, Mass., by John Prentiss & Co., under the superintendence of the son, Thomas Thacher.[1] In the preface to this publication was the following paragraph: "For this publication we are indebted to the pious generosity of the author's son, who rejoices that he can, as he hopes, contribute something to the good of his fellow-men, and, at the same time, perpetuate the memory of the best of fathers."

Some brief extracts are here given from the sermon by Rev. Mr. Thacher, which was preached May 19, 1792, to the people in the First Church, the Sabbath after the funeral of their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Weld.

The prayers of your aged, reverend, and beloved pastor are ended. He hath done his work. He hath fought a good fight. He hath finished his course. He hath kept the faith. His house, his family, this Society miss him, and lament him. Neighbor societies, far and near, (having been made partakers of his gifts, graces, and fervent prayers,) are mourners with you in the heavy loss you sustain. He hath been a zealous, faithful and successful laborer in Christ's vineyard, for a great many years, occasionally with others in other societies; but you my dear friends, were the happy people favored with his more stated labors. The care of the churches was much upon his heart; to live and die with you, his peculiar care and charge, — he studied for you, and for you he spent his time, his strength, his life, — teaching and exhorting publickly, and from house to house, being instant in season and out of season, reproving, rebucking and exhorting with all long suffering and doctrine.

You all know his zeal, his fervent mind, his care to [im]prove himself to his divine master as faithful to his interest, and friendly to your souls.

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[1] Supposed to be Rev. Thomas Thacher, of Dedham, who died October, 1812. He was a man of learning and a prominent preacher in his day. See History of Dedham, p. 118.

This desk and these walls, may witness for him, how faithfully and solemnly he warned, how earnestly he persuaded you to be reconciled to God, through the blood of his son, — with what light and power (through the help of God) he hath continued to preach the gospel, the laws and motives of the gospel, for many years among you. You are all witnesses how he hath visited you in your sickness, received your visits, directed your consciences, warned the unruly, comforted the feeble minded, supported and encouraged the weak, — and with what vigor and pleasure he applied himself to all parts of his work, especially when (through the grace of God) he saw any fruits of his pious care and industry, and the hopeful effects of the travel [travail] of the Redeemer's soul among any, especially his own dear charge.

His sermons were generally well studied, showing how intent his mind and desire was so to speak in the name of God, and from His oracles, as might best inform your minds, strike your affections, enter your consciences, and impress your hearts, — and they were often delivered with great pathos, energy and earnestness.

But when he led you in prayer and supplication, in praise and thanksgiving to God, in one administration and another, especially on occasion of the administration of the sacraments of the new testament, baptism and the Lord's supper, I speak from my own observation, as I had several precious opportunities to attend upon such occasions, — then his peculiar eminence appeared in such a flow, propriety and fulness, as could but warm and move his intelligent fellow worshippers, and bear away the spiritual and truly devout towards heaven. He came near to the throne. He filled his mouth with argument. He was in his element. He seemed with uncommon freedom, to unbosom his soul, and pour out his soul to God, particularly when for the spread of the Redeemer's kingdom and glory.

In the pulpit, and out of it, you all know he was zealous for his God, a faithful and close reprover of sin, not fearing the faces of men. God hath been pleased to honor him much in his labors for the good of souls. I hope there are here to-day many that are the seal of [his] ministry, in whom he had much satisfaction and joy; who not only had a high regard and honor for him while he lived, but retain a reverence for his memory.

In a word, you all know his doctrine and manner of life; he having served God with his spirit, in the gospel of His Son, in this place, nearly fifty-five years. — His prayers are ended.

In concluding his sermon Mr. Thacher recommended one subject in particular to the consideration of the church. "One thing, my dear friends, I most earnestly request of you, — it is this, drop all personal jars and animosities."[1]

Next to Mr. Weld, Mr. Thacher held his pastorate longer than any other minister in town, a pastorate that was prosperous and successful, at certain times especially so. He was a man devotedly religious, of excellent theological character and attainments, of good literary abilities. He was most faithful to his charge, laboring to promote the intellectual as well as the moral and religious good of his people, and "to his ministerial services in this parish, are patriotism and education, morality and piety, greatly indebted."

The Second Parish, which was called the Precinct in those days, was established in 1743, as appears by the act previously quoted. Religious worship was conducted under the direction of the parish, and meetings were held in private dwellings until the meetinghouse was so far finished as to admit the holding of religious services in it. The church itself was not constituted till November 30, 1748, at the time of the ordination of Rev. Mr. Thacher, as may be seen by his account of that occasion.

[1] Which advice they failed to follow, for, for some unfortunate cause, a division in the church ensued, which continued for eight years.

After Mr. Thacher and before the settlement of another minister, there were several preachers here — Rev. Asahel Huntington, Mr. Laughton, Mr. Farrington, of Wrentham, Mr. Mead, etc.

The next settled minister was the Rev. Ebenezer Lazell, of Bridgewater. He was a graduate of Brown University in 1788 and was ordained November 21, 1792. The ordination sermon was preached by Rev. Zedekiah Sanger, pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Bridgewater; the charge was given by the distinguished Dr. Perez Forbes (also spelled Peres Fobes), of Raynham; the right hand of fellowship, by Rev. John Wilder, of Attleborough. The sermon and addresses were published.

Not long after his settlement, in January, 1793, Mr. Lazell married Chloe, daughter of Captain Abiathar Richardson, of this town. He continued here about four years and was dismissed January 3, 1797. He removed with his wife to the State of New York, where they both died.

His successor was the Rev. Nathan Holman. He was born in Sutton, this State, in that part which is now Millbury, May 17, 1769. He was the third son of David and Lucy Thurston Holman. He worked on his father's farm till he was twenty-one years of age, but his strong desire for a liberal education and the ministry induced him to use his best efforts to obtain a college course of study. His father, who had a large family of children, could render him but little assistance. He was obliged to rely mainly on himself for the means. By great economy and personal efforts he succeeded and graduated at Brown University in 1797 with an honorable standing "and the reputation of a good scholar." He then studied theology with Rev. Edmund Mills, pastor in his native place, and finished his theological studies in Wrentham, being with Dr. Emmons there for a short period.

After being licensed, he preached in several places and received several invitations to settle. Early in 1800 he commenced preaching here as a candidate and soon received a unanimous call to settle as pastor of this church and parish. He was ordained October 15, 1800, and installed at the same time. His former pastor, Rev. Mr. Mills, of Sutton, preached the ordination sermon, which was published.[1]

Mr. Holman was a man of great firmness and perseverance. The church increased in numbers, and the society prospered during his administration. He was a man of dignity in manner and solemn in his style of preaching. Some difference between him and his people in regard to the introduction of instrumental music into the church service was the final cause of his asking a dismission. "With great reluctance on the part of the church and parish, his request was granted, and he was dismissed by an Ecclesiastical Council" on May 22, 1821. He remained in town above forty years and

[1] It was printed by Nathaniel Heaton, Jr., of Wrentham. Most of the sermons and addresses published in this vicinity were printed at that press, which continued there for quite a number of years.

supplied vacant pulpits in the vicinity for a number of years after his dismissal.

After a long and useful life he died in this town October 28, 1844, at the age of seventy-five, in the house which he built near the church where he preached, and where he had lived during many years of his life. He was respected and venerated for his many virtues and his ministerial labors by his numerous parishioners.[1]

Several of his sermons and orations were published — an "Oration" delivered in his church July 5, 1802, at the "Anniversary of American Independence," and a "Special Discourse" on the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of John Shepard ("the ancient").

Mr. Holman married Lettice, daughter of Dr. Samuel Morey, of Norton. She died March 6, 1848. They had three children, Samuel Morey, David Emory, and Mary Hodges Holman, only one of whom — the eldest — is now living.[2]

To Mr. Holman succeeded the Rev. John Ferguson. He was born December 9, 1788, at Dunse, which was a market town in Berwickshire in the southern part of Scotland. His grandfather came from the north of Scotland and was one of the Duke of Marlborough's soldiers, serving in the Scots Grays, a regiment of heavy cavalry, in Queen Anne's wars. His father and uncle emigrated to this country and settled in Newport, R. I. During the time of the Revolutionary war his father returned to Scotland, as he was unwilling to fight against the mother country, but at the age of seventy he returned with his wife and family to Newport. Mrs. Ferguson was Anne Briggs, of Little Compton, R. I.

At the time of the family's return to this country, the subject of this sketch was seventeen years old. He became converted at an early age and commenced fitting himself for the ministry. He studied for two years with Dr. Tenney, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Newport, intending to enter Yale College two years in advance. While residing in Providence at one time, he studied under the tuition of Rev. Calvin Park, D.D., Professor of Ancient Languages, and later of Moral Philosophy, in Brown University. He was obliged to abandon his plan of entering college, had again to enter business, assume the care of his father and the support of the family. For ten years he continued this course and during all the time never relinquished the hope of entering the ministry. He seemed to have a presentiment that the desire of his life would be fulfilled, and the ten years proved to be years of preparation for that kind of life, though of so different a nature from what he would have chosen.

"His first sermon as a candidate for settlement was preached in this town,

[1] He had a brother, Rev. David Holman, who was settled in Douglas, Mass., for many years.
[2] Mr. Samuel Holman has since died.

and his text, 'The Lord is a man of war.' The text and sermon were not only characteristic of the man and his theology, but characteristic of his ministry, which to use his own expression, was 'warlike.' Mr. Ferguson never shrunk from the defence of truth, never hesitated to sacrifice comfort, reputation, or means of support, in the maintenance of principle. Like other such men, he was often involved in controversy and conflict, and not infrequently made bitter enemies; though he, at the same time, rallied about him, more and warmer friends. Some may perhaps, have doubted the wisdom or necessity of all his battles, but none ever questioned the entire honesty or disinterestedness of his motives."

He was ordained here February 27, 1822, and dismissed March 25, 1835. Speaking of his ministry here a writer says: "It was of great value in the administration of wise and judicious measures, and marked the commencement of the system of support to the various benevolent enterprises of the day, and of aid to the labors of parent and pastor by a judicious and careful education of children in Sabbath Schools, and maternal associations."

After leaving Attleborough, Mr. Ferguson was settled in Whately, Mass., from March 16, 1836, till June 7, 1840. He was called Father Ferguson and was a man to whom churches looked for counsel and pastors for advice, often when pastors and churches were involved in difficulties.

"He was very often solicited to appear as advocate, before ecclesiastical courts, and many a time, as he has done this, have the coolness and shrewdness, the wit and wisdom, with which he advocated the cause, extorted the exclamation: 'What a lawyer he would have made!'" He almost always defended the weaker party, his sympathies frequently inclining to the unpopular side. "He was always ready to grasp his shield, and poise his lance, for the injured and defenceless. In such cases he sniffed the battle, like the war horse, and fought with all the chivalry, and I may add the courtesy of a Christian knight." He became extensively known as the "champion of the oppressed," though at the same time he was equally well known "as a lover and maker of peace."

He preached for about two years at Lanesborough and Whately, the place of his former settlement, and in 1842 became general agent of the American Tract Association for the States of Vermont and New Hampshire, in which position and work he was very successful. He really became the Congregational Bishop of those two States.

He died at Whately November 11, 1858. He was a man of vigorous mind and vigorous body, a large-hearted man of keen wit, "but his keenest shafts were winged with kindness." He was social and genial in manner. Realizing the defects of his own education, — having never graduated from any college, — he labored hard and made many sacrifices to give his sons college educations. Amherst College bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts, a proof that, although he had been denied the

advantage of a college course, he had by his own exertions thoroughly educated himself, and the compliment was a source of gratification to him.

He was married June 7, 1813, to Mary V. Hammer of Newport, R. I., by whom he had two children. She died June 30, 1818. On April 28, 1819, he married Margaret S. Eddy of Providence, R. I., by whom he had nine children.

Mr. Ferguson[1] published a sermon on the death of Ebenezer Daggett, Jr., which was delivered December 16, 1831, and several other discourses. He also published a "Memoir of Dr. Samuel Hopkins," the celebrated theologian, for the use of Sabbath-schools.

A parsonage house was built by the parish in 1822. This is the house on South Main Street now occupied by Mr. Joseph Capron. Rev. Mr. Ferguson was the only clergyman who occupied it as a parsonage. After he left town it was sold, first to Moses Wilmarth, then to Virgil Capron, then to Thomas French, and finally to Otis Capron, from whose hands it passed into those of its present owner. It has been altered and somewhat enlarged since it was first built.

The second meetinghouse in the "East Precinct" was built in 1825. It was begun in the spring of that year and dedicated in December following. It cost about $6,000. It has since been enlarged at a cost of several thousand dollars additional.

The next pastor of the church was Rev. Jonathan Crane. He was born in Schenectady, N. Y., in 1814. There he passed his boyhood, and at the age of fifteen he entered Union College, graduating in 1832 at eighteen years of age. He entered the ministry when twenty-one, and on October 30, 1836, when but twenty-two, he was ordained over this church. He remained here for eighteen years and was dismissed June 12, 1854. He removed to New York, where he was settled over the Congregational Church on Twentieth Street. He remained there three years, when he was invited to return to this town, and it was during the time he was here that the church building was enlarged and repaired. In 1860 Mr. Crane received a call from the Congregational Church at Middletown, N. Y., which he accepted, and where he labored for eight years. Upon his taking charge of that church the congregation numbered only about forty families, but he lived to see it increase threefold.

In 1868 he went west, where he remained for a number of years, laboring in several places in Michigan and Missouri. He was principally at Kalamazoo, Mich., not settled over any church, but preaching and working in various churches in that region. At St. Joseph, Mo., he was especially successful, and largely through his efforts a new church was erected there.

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[1] He was a relative of the celebrated Dr. Adam Ferguson, the historian and professor in Edinburgh University. See Blake's Mendon Association.

In 1875 Mr. Crane received a second call from his people in Middletown and returned to his charge there, remaining until his death, which occurred December 25, 1877, at the age of sixty-three years.

In an obituary notice of him are these words: "Throughout his entire life, Mr. Crane was a conscientious and devout Christian, an honorable and high-minded gentleman, the very soul of honor, and an enterprising, public spirited citizen, always favoring and aiding any enterprise looking to the advancement of the locality where he resided.

"Mr. Crane had a wonderful faculty for conducting the financial affairs of churches, and many congregations throughout the country can thank him for their present sound basis."

Mr. Crane was very successful in his ministry here, the church being prosperous and receiving large additions to its numbers while under his charge.

In 1837 he was married to Anna H., daughter of N. W. Sanford, of Brooklyn, N. Y. She survived him for nine years and died at Middletown November 28, 1886. Four children are living, namely, Annie E. (Mrs. George W. Fish), Sanford W., John, and Francis.

The next settled minister was Rev. Charles D. Lothrop. He was born in Easton, Mass., in 1828 and graduated at Amherst College in 1849 and subsequently at Andover Theological Seminary. He was installed over this church December 14, 1854, and dismissed April 29, 1857, having been pastor for about two years and a half.

From this time for about nine years there was no settled minister. Mr. Crane preached here for several years, as has been stated, and, after he left, the pulpit was supplied by a number of clergymen, hired by the week, the month, or for a longer period. The one who remained the longest period was Rev. Mr. Belden, who was here in "war times," and whose sermons and addresses during that period will be remembered by many as most patriotic, most stirring, and eloquent.

A most unfortunate dissension had arisen between the church and parish, commencing with some disagreement regarding the last settled pastor mentioned, which was increased over some questions arising when the church building was altered. This continued for quite a number of years, finally involving some legal questions. But though all differences were at length set at rest, it seemed impossible to find the man who as pastor and preacher should satisfy all the people. The right time came, however, when church and parish "agreed to agree," and a call was extended to Rev. Francis N. Peloubet. He was born in New York City, was a graduate of Williams College in 1853 and of Bangor Theological Seminary in 1857. He was installed here June 26, 1866, and dismissed at his own request October 19, 1871. He removed to Natick, Mass., where he still resides. He had charge of a church for some years, but at present has no pastorate, being largely interested in the International Sabbath-school work. He is the author of the "Peloubet

Series of Question Books and Quarterlies," and of "Select Notes on the International Lessons." Since leaving this town he has received the degree of Doctor of Divinity. [He is now (1891) in Auburndale.]

To him succeeded the Rev. Samuel Bell. He was installed December 18, 1872, and dismissed October 28, 1878.

The next pastor was Rev. William A. Spalding, of Lynn, Mass., and formerly, with his wife, a missionary in Armenia. He was installed September 11, 1879. He remained four years. Finally, failing health made it necessary for him to give up ministerial work, and he requested a dismissal, which was granted November 19, 1883. He returned to his native place, Lynn, where he died very suddenly January 10, 1884.

Rev. Walter Barton is the present pastor of the church. He was born at Granby, Mass., May 5, 1833. He fitted for college at Williston Seminary, Easthampton, and graduated at Amherst College in 1856. He then returned to Williston as a teacher and remained two years, then entered the Connecticut Theological Institution at East Windsor Hill and graduated from there three years later, in 1861. He preached one year each in Oxford, Conn., and Grafton, Vt., and was then called to the Congregational church in South Amherst, Mass., where he was ordained and installed February 17, 1864. In 1866 he received and accepted a call to the Congregational church in Suffield, Conn., where he remained until called to the First Church of Christ, in Lynn, this State, over which he was installed February 24, 1876. This charge he held for eight years, when a call was extended to him from the church in Attleborough. He commenced his labors here in March, 1884.

During his ministry in Suffield two hundred and twenty persons were added to the church. The church of his charge in Lynn is called legally "The First Church of Christ in Lynn," and is the oldest Congregational church, occupying the same ground, in the United States. During Mr. Barton's residence it celebrated the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its formation, the pastor delivering the historical address on that occasion. While he was there one hundred and twenty-six were added to the church and a large and burdensome debt was lifted.

Since his ministry here commenced there have been about seventy persons admitted to the church. Mr. Barton has not been publicly installed over this church for certain reasons relating to his own views upon the question of installation, reasons which affect neither the harmony between himself and his people nor the faithfulness and earnestness of his labors among them.[1] He married Mattie M. Smith, of North Hadley, Mass., by whom he has two daughters, Mary L. and Minnie M. Barton (now Mrs. Thomas Foote).

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[1] Mr. Barton resigned his pastorate here September 1, 1893, and removed to Hyde Park. He has not ceased preaching, but is not connected with any church. The last of November, 1893, a call was extended to Rev. Elwin L. House, then of Portland, Maine, which was accepted. He preached his first sermon here as pastor December 17 following and was installed January 31, 1894.

As has been seen, this church was constituted on the 30th of November, 1848, "by Rev. Mr. Leonard, pastor of the First Congregational Church at Plymouth, as the organ of an Ecclesiastical Council, called for that purpose, being a colony from the First Congregational Church in this town, then under the pastoral care of Rev. Habijah Weld, its honored pastor, almost fifty-five years."

This division was attended with the utmost harmony and good feeling on the part both of those who removed and those who remained. The reasons for the formation of this church may be found in a letter asking for a dismissal from the First Church and "signed by 26 males and 24 females."

Having a prospect (through the mercy of God) that the Gospel Ministry and Ordinances may be settled among us more conveniently than to attend with you, and for the more regular carrying on of the Affairs of Christ's Kingdom among us, it is our desire and design (by the help of God, and with your consent,) to Embody into a Church State, etc. Following are the names of those who signed this letter: —

Joseph Capron and Wife,
Jonathan Wilmarth and Wife,
Thomas French and Wife,
Stephen Wilmarth,
Mary French,
Ichabod Perry,
John Wilkinson,
Abraham Comming and Wife,
Aaron Cutting,
Nathan Wilmarth and Wife,
John Tiffany and Wife,
Henry Joslin, Jr.,
Edward Foster and Wife,
Elizabeth Lane,
Abigail Powell,
Obadiah Carpenter and Wife,
Joseph Barrus and Wife,
Daniel Perry and Wife,
Henry Joslin,
Jonas Richardson,
Bethiah Carpenter,
Thomas Wilmarth,
Robert Martin and Wife,
Rebecca Brown,
William Bolcom and Wife,
David Perry and Wife,
Sarah Jackson,
John Tyler and Wife.
Joseph Bishop,
Daniel Wilmarth,
Hannah (the wife of Sam.) Jackson,
Thomas Sweet and Wife,
Liddia (the wife of Wm.) Lane,
John Sweet and Wife.

This letter was dated October, 1748, and the answer, dated November 26, 1748, was signed "Habijah Weld, Pastor: In the Name and with the Consent of the Church."

That the relations between the people of the two parishes had been pleasant is to be seen by the following words of Rev. Mr. Thacher: "The most of the time between Aug. 20, 1743, and November 30, 1748, I stood in the relation of pastor elect to the brethren and people of God in the easterly part of Attleborough, and preached to them on other Sabbaths; yet with mutual consent, we all attended the Rev. Mr. Weld's meetings, the Sabbaths on which he administered the Lord's Supper."

In the course of a few weeks after the formation of the new church its membership had increased to seventy. Fifty-nine of the number were from the First Church, and the remainder — four excepted — from East Providence, which was then a part of Rehoboth. As has been seen, fifty persons formed this church. At the public and formal organization the following

persons joined it: Peter Thacher, from the church in Middleborough, Jesiel Perry, Jr., William Hutchins, and David Hutchins, of Rehoboth, and William Dryer. At one time only were there fewer names on the books. This was at the beginning of the present century. Some extracts from a sermon preached in October, 1820, by the Rev. Mr. Holman will show the reasons for this declension, in the state of the community at that time. Says Mr. Holman: —

When I came into this place the Church and Society were considered as being in a very low state. Twenty years had passed away without any special attention to religion, and for eighteen but nine members had been added. It might therefore be expected that the Church would be much reduced. This was found to be the case. There were then but forty-six members, fourteen males, five of whom lived in Rehoboth, and thirty-two females. Four of the male members had not for a number of years communed, or acted with the Church, and never did afterwards. Among the remaining ten, none were under fifty years, and some were very far advanced in life. Three died in a short time, and some others within a few years. In 1800 sixteen members were added to the Church, and in 1801, twenty-seven more; making in the two years forty-three. Twelve of these were males, and thirty-one females. Deducting for deaths and removals, the Church at the close of the year 1802 could not consist of more than eighty members. From this time to 1814, a period of twelve years, only twelve were added to the church, three males and nine females. In these twelve years a considerable number died, and a greater number removed into other places, so that in 1814 there were but fifty members in the Church, eleven males, and thirty-nine females. This was a period of great declension and abounding iniquity. Though under the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Thacher, this people were applauded for the regularity of their habits and the morality of their lives, yet for the long period of twenty years after he was taken off from his labors, to the year 1800, immoral practices had sprung up and become very prevalent. Gambling of almost every kind was much practiced. Profane swearing had become quite fashionable among a certain class of the people, and the same class of people were seen so frequently at the taverns and grogshops, as to obtain the appellation of tavern-haunters; and although the revival of religion in 1800 and 1801 proved a check upon these practices, yet they were continued, in a greater or less degree, and opposition was felt and expressed by a number, through the whole of the revival; and after the revival, as religion declined, iniquity abounded more and more.

The writer further says that in 1814 "it seemed as though the plans of the wicked were systematized and brought to perfection." The church was small, but sinners were many, and professors were almost in despair, and ready "to think that the mercy of God was clean gone, and that religion would soon be removed from this place." More than a year had passed away "without a religious conference, or meeting for prayer," which "had not occurred before since the revival in 1800." The "professors" were almost strangers to each other and all appeared to be sleeping, but soon the work of the Lord became visible, and then it was found that many had been praying for a reformation. Conference meetings were then held every week; — "For several weeks, however, but few males attended, and the prayers were all offered by the Pastor. Conference meetings were, for a number of weeks, met with the assembling of the irreligious the same week, and sometimes the same day. The day following one of them, there was a horse-race in the same direction of the religious meeting, which drew together a large number of men. The week following, the same day of the conference, there was a foot-race, which it was thought assembled at least two hundred people, men and boys. This, however, was a day of encouragement to the mourners in Zion. Five men, not all members of the Church, attended the meeting. In about ten days after this, a large ball which had been contemplated, and which was to have assembled most of our dear youth together, with others from the neighboring towns, was to have been attended. But seriousness was so impressed upon the minds of many, and the sudden death of Dea. Thacher occurring, and his funeral being attended the same day of the ball, influenced most of them to relinquish their object. Others attended the ball, but with the promise that they would never attend another, and it is to be

hoped they never will, for they have been hopefully converted and become regular members of the Church. From this time all vain amusements, and as far as appeared, all gambling, was discontinued. The attention of all appeared to be more or less turned to the great subject of religion." This work progressed continually for about two years. "No unusual means had been used, no new preachers had appeared among us, and no alarming providence had occurred. Had this taken place a year before it might have been thought to be caused by the sickness and the deaths with which we were then visited. We had then more cases of fever, and more deaths occasioned by fevers, than we had had for thirteen years before. Five died in one family. During the time of this sickness,[1] which was a period of about seven months, more than thirty died in this parish; eight of whom were members of this church." In fair weather and foul the meetings at this time were crowded, and frequently the meeting-house could not contain the people. Many were converted.

"The relations of those who hopefully experienced religion, were thought to be peculiarly scriptural, and truly Orthodox. For two years, we had no communion without one or more being added to the Church. Twenty-seven is the largest number added at any one time. The whole number added, since the commencement of the revival is one hundred and thirty-four; thirty-nine males, and ninety-five females."

One says: "This Church we regard as the product of the great awakening in 1740," and "the year 1743, in which this parish was formed, is memorable in the religious history of our country, especially of New England, for the great awakening under Edwards and his cotemporaries. This town shared largely in that work, and a large proportion of the original members of this Church, were among its subjects. Within the three years that preceded the formation of this parish, the First Church in this town, received 192 to her communion." The Second Church has had other times of depression, but none so serious as the one just mentioned, and since that time there seems to have been a continual — if at times small — increase, until in 1887 the membership was three hundred and eighty-six.

Many have gone from her midst to plant other churches in other places, and many of her sons have entered the ministry. The revival of 1815 enabled her "to give five of her youthful sons to the work of the gospel ministry," and thirty-three years later four of these were living.

In 1800 a church was formed in Harford, Penn., a town colonized by Attleborough people. There were seven original members and all had letters from this church. "The Pawtucket Congregational Church[2] was originally composed of but nine members, one male, and eight females. All these were members of the church in Attleborough, under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Ferguson. In April 1829, they were dismissed from that church, with Christian affection and commendation, for the purpose of being organized into a distinct branch of the Christian Church, to be located in the village of Pawtucket. That was effected by a regularly convened ecclesiastical council, on the seventeenth of the above month." A number of years ago a clergyman of New York State, a member of the Thacher family, thus wrote:

[1] This must have been the *cold plague*, elsewhere mentioned, which occurred in 1816, but Mr. Holman places the date a little later.

[2] The church of which Rev. Mr. Blodgett was for so many years the beloved pastor.

"I am acquainted with no Church, from which, considering its location, and the number of its constituent members, so many sons and daughters have emanated as from the Second Church in Attleboro'. Her descendants are found in almost all the Eastern, Middle, Western and some of the Southern States, active members of various Churches, which they have been either instrumental in forming, or with which they have become connected."

The one hundredth anniversary of the church's formation was celebrated in an appropriate and interesting manner. December 7, instead of November 30, 1848, was the date selected as a matter of convenience. Delegates from several churches were present, and many letters containing pleasant reminiscences of her early days, sacred memories, and heartfelt congratulations, were received. Numbers of clergymen from abroad were present to take part in the varied services of the day, among them the Rev. Messrs. J. O. Barney, C. Blodgett, Thomas Williams, J. Ferguson, and J. M. B. Bailey, and there were two of the name of Thacher, descendants of the first minister. These officiated at the communion service and were assisted by Deacon Peter Thacher, of this town, and Deacon J. Tyler, of Harford, Penn., both grandsons of the first minister. At this time one person, Mrs. Mercy Everett, was living in town who had been baptized by Mr. Thacher ninety-one years before, and another, Miss Deborah Starkey, who had joined the church sixty-eight years previous, in the revival of 1780.

On this occasion Rev. Mr. Crane, the pastor of the church, delivered the historical address. In it he says of the church: "Formed soon after the bloody wars with the Indians, she passed through the American Revolution, and has witnessed a change almost miraculous, on the part of the colonies, a change from a state of colonial dependence, to that of an united, free and independent republic; from a condition of great poverty and depression, to one of comparative wealth, renown and honor." These words were prophetic, for, while true of her past, they were true in a more marked degree of her future. Could the writer have looked forward a few years he would have seen the church witness a struggle darker, deadlier, bloodier than the one before and presaging a change even more miraculous; he would have seen her freely giving her sons to the fight as before, and this time even to the death; and he would have seen the country rising from a state lower and more degrading than that of colonial dependence — a state of slavery — to one of true freedom and independence, and from a "condition of comparative wealth, renown and honor" to one of great wealth and ever increasing importance and commercial prosperity and to a position highly honorable, yea, even foremost among the nations of the earth.

SABBATH-SCHOOL.

Unfortunately, all records relating to the formation of the Sabbath-school connected with this church have been lost, and memory and tradition can give

now but a few scattered facts or recollections. The school was formed in 1825 during the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Ferguson, who was no doubt largely instrumental in starting this good work. It is known that the first sessions were held in the Franklin schoolhouse, then occupying the lot where the church now stands. They could not have continued there long, for during that year probably the schoolhouse was moved. The vestry was not finished until some time after the upper part of the new meetinghouse was completed, and therefore the school may have occupied the main audience room. The last Deacon Thacher was probably the first superintendent; and among the earlier ones were Mr. Myers, Jesse Carpenter, Nathaniel W. Sanford, Deacon Atherton Wales, Emmons Walton, Edward Wilmarth, and Deacon Harvey Claflin. Among the later ones may be mentioned Zenas B. Carpenter and his two sons, L. Z. and A. B. Carpenter, B. P. King, A. Vinton Cobb, Charles E. Bliss; and others have held the position.[1]

The following report, which is given in full, furnishes much interesting information regarding the school a few years after its formation and is especially valuable because it is the only known early record in existence.

Our school is situated in Attle. Co. of Bristol. Our school has been in successful operation for fifteen years. During that period an increasing interest in its prosperity has been manifested. It is regarded as one of the most promising means of usefulness in operation among us. The cause of its increase during the 15 years is to be attributed to the increasing evidence of its utility rather than to any special effort to give it popularity. Our course has been silent, uniform, persevering, and we indulge the hope that its prosperity will be lasting. We have about 100 between 18 and 75 who are in Newcomb's book of Romans, about 60 in his 2d vol, and a few in his first. A number in the other Catechism. We have a class of old ladies who formerly sat as spectators. An elderly Brother by their request was invited to become their teacher. He accepted the invitation & commenced I think with four; soon the class so much increased that it became necessary to divide, and another brother was invited to be their teacher. These scholars have ever been studious & constant attendants at the school. It was mentioned by these old ladies that our grey-headed fathers should not be passed by. Accordingly, one of our number went into the streets, and soon gathered a class which has so much increased that it has been divided and sub-divided. Our pastor always attends the opening of the school when at home, and takes a lively interest in it. His wife too lends the helping hand and has the charge of a class of young ladies. In short they have ever been the pillar and main spring from the commencement.[2] Our teachers are for the most part punctual & interested. Our lesson for the first Sabbath in each month is given out from the Assembly's Catechism. At the close of the school questions are asked from this lesson, which appear to interest all. We have had a s. s. celebration, 4th of July, the two past years, and with a little effort it has been made very interesting. — our meeting-house filled to overflowing. Our school was visited the fore part of the year with the out-pouring of God's Holy Spirit, and a number

[1] The school is now, 1891, under the most efficient guidance of Mr. Martin L. Chapman. On February 15 there was the largest attendance ever known, there being then three hundred and eighty-six persons present.

[2] It is apparent that Mr. Thacher here refers to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, since they were no doubt "the main spring" so long as they remained here, but Mr. Ferguson left town in 1835, and Mr. Jonathan Crane had been pastor of the church about three years and a half at the time this report was written.

of souls as we hope and trust were born anew, — but for some reason He has been pleased to withdraw his Spirit from among us. All which is respectfully submitted.

Peter Thacher, Superintendent.

To

Rev. Asa Bullard, Secretary Massachusetts Sabbath School Society.

Attleborough March 25, 1840.

Periods of depression have very probably visited the school since its organization and lack of interest been at times manifested, but for a generation past it has certainly been prosperous and is at present in a most flourishing and encouraging condition. The reports show that on January 1, 1887, there were 47 classes with 11 officers and assistants. The total number on the roll of both teachers and scholars was 516, of scholars 462; the largest attendance during the year previous 351, the average 314, and the aggregate 16,328, with a gain in the average attendance of 28 above the year preceding. The home department numbered 132. The number of conversions during the year was 32, and the collections amounted to $268.06. This is the largest Protestant Sabbath-school in town and the largest but one in the conference to which the church belongs.

We have stated that the first meetinghouse in the second precinct was commenced in 1743. The land upon which it was built was given to the parish, and subsequently they purchased additional lots. The building was thirty-five by forty-five feet, called a square building, and stood on what is now the common, near where one of the large elm trees stands by the path which formerly crossed to the residence of the late David E. Holman. It faced the south and had three doors, one in the south front, one on the east, and the other on the west side. Through the central, south door the minister of the olden time always entered and with great dignity, uncovering his head as did his parishioners while he passed them. It was the custom for many to wait outside to pay this mark of respect to the minister, and for those who had entered the building to rise as he entered and remain standing until he had taken his seat. The old meetinghouse had the then common hipped roof,[1] and often these buildings were surmounted with a belfry, wherein hung the bell, but there is nothing to indicate the presence of such an appendage here. In lieu of a bell in those days, "a drum was beat" or a conch shell blown to summon the "clockless people" to service, and sometimes a flag was raised for the benefit of those who dwelt beyond the sound of drum or shell. What special custom was followed here we do not know, but we may be sure that some effective method was used, that the people every one attended regularly, and that they were never late.

[1] Opinions differ with regard to the appearance of this building; and, according to the testimony of several who claim to remember "just how it looked," the roof was peaked not hipped. The sides were north and south, the roof sloping in those directions, the ridge pole running east and west; and it had many windows with very small panes of glass, probably twenty-four to each window. A memory picture which thus shows it has recently been made for Major E. S. Horton — the result of the combined testimony of about half a dozen of the oldest inhabitants of the town.

The building of this meetinghouse must have been a great event, and it is said "quite a crowd gathered to see the ground broken, and every male citizen who could possibly leave his own affairs, attended the raising." The structure must have been plain and primitive in the extreme, as we now judge, though it compared favorably with the majority of the dwellings of the people. It was not finished inside for several years, but eventually it had a "tier of galleries" on three sides, a high pulpit with huge sounding-board no doubt occupying the other. It was nearly forty years before pews were introduced here, and until that time probably the rudest of pine benches were the only sitting accommodation afforded. In some of the churches a hundred and fifty years ago it is said that the seats were so arranged that they were raised when the people, as was then the custom, rose for the prayers; and, the amen being pronounced, they fell with a loud slam when the people prepared to reseat themselves. This seems hardly compatible with the dignity and propriety we have been taught to believe the early fathers maintained, and in these "unregenerate days" such a ceremony would not be considered "conducive to the true spirit of worship." Whatever the style of seats first used here, in 1780 the people were ready for a change, for it is recorded that in that year pews were introduced into the meetinghouse. "The room upon the floor was divided and sold to pay the expense incurred for alterations and repairs, amounting, according to record, to £23,000; but as if to save their credit from a charge of wasteful extravagance, it is added that 'one silver dollar[1] shall be received for seventy-two dollars of the old emission.'"

Another custom which early prevailed was the one maintained by the sect called Friends: the men occupied one portion of the church and the women another, families being thus divided; and this fashion obtained in some places up to quite a recent date. That it was followed here seems to be proven by a record made in 1793, in which the "wimen's body of Seats below" is mentioned. It is said that in many of the colonial churches there were two ministers. These occupied the seats at the back of the pulpit, while the ruling elders had their raised seats in front of the pulpit, and the deacons also, only a step lower down. It is also said that social rank was sometimes a powerful element in the religion even of our forefathers, and that seats in church were arranged by its standard. Sometimes the places were assigned by the committee in charge according to the position of the men on the tax list and sometimes by grading their liberality toward the expenses of the church. The tithing-man was an important factor in the old-time Sabbath

[1] These must of course have been Spanish dollars, then in circulation in this country and taken fifteen years later as the standard of the first American dollars coined. It is difficult to even approximate the actual cost of these repairs. Twenty years previous it took over £2,000 of Rhode Island paper money to make £100 sterling, and at this time much more would probably have been required, for in 1780-81 the paper money issued by Congress had become almost valueless. The true value of the sum which sounds so large would therefore be very small.

Day service, and he was busily employed in keeping mischievous urchins in order, waking the sleepy fathers and mothers in Israel, and even in watching stray dogs, who frequently followed their masters to the sanctuary. At first a leader lined out the psalms, the singing of which must have been unmelodious and wearisome to a high degree, since "two breaths" were often required in the prolongation of one note; and later came the choir of "village youths and maidens," who, according to a French gentleman, — a traveler in this country, — actually "sang three parts, and the women sustained a fourth." For many years meetinghouses had no heating apparatus, the women alone using footstoves, while the men sat in their "great coats" and sometimes their hats. The fate of the children is not deemed worthy of mention by the writers; they must have suffered, but of course in silence.

Another early fashion was to build "Sabbath Day houses," to be occupied by the families of the owners between services and as places in which to eat their lunches. John Woodcock had one in Rehoboth and another in Wrentham, and others may have had them in this town though no mention of them appears to have been made. This fashion of going to church for the day and of bringing lunches continued here until the second preaching service was given up a few years ago. In one of the small vestry rooms, for many a Sunday, a cup of tea was prepared to cheer and sustain some of the old ladies of the congregation, and over this fragrant beverage conversation never lagged, nor was it wholly confined to the merits of the sermon just heard in the room above.

The old meetinghouse had its horse block "at the corner of the house" and later its row of sheds. Up to about 1820 it may be conjectured no music but that of the voice had been heard within its walls, for at that time it is recorded that the introduction of wind instruments into the services caused trouble between Mr. Holman and his people, which finally resulted in his dismissal. It ought, however, in justice to be said that this was not the only cause of dissension; money matters entered into the dispute, for it appears that the minister's salary was not paid as promptly as it should have been. The first building was occupied for a little more than eighty years and then a new one was built a few rods west of it.

In the year 1807 a number of the members of this parish "shewing that the said Precinct is possessed in their own right of a small lot of land, called the Meeting-house lot, in said Precinct with a Meeting house thereon: And also of Eleven hundred and forty Dollars, as a fund for supporting a minister of the Gospel in said Precinct," petitioned the Legislature to incorporate them into a society. It was therefore enacted that Noah Blandin, Jacob Bolkcom, Joab Daggett, Thomas French, Caleb Richardson, Jr., Nathaniel Robinson, Henry Sweet, and Peter Thacher, — with others who had or should join them, — and their successors, should be incorporated into a body politic "with perpetual possession," and called "The Congregational Society in the

Second Precinct in Attleboro'." These gentlemen and their successors were appointed trustees with the usual powers. It was provided that the fund could be put at interest "until the principal and interest, with what may be added thereto, shall amount to Four Thousand Dollars," and then the interest or annual income of the same was to be devoted to the paying of whatever Congregational minister might be regularly ordained and settled in the second precinct. In the event of any vacancy of a regularly ordained and settled minister, interest could be added to principal, and if at any time the interest of said fund should be more than sufficient to pay the minister, the surplus could be applied to "rebuilding, enlarging or repairing their meeting house, or any other purpose of public utility as the said society shall direct." Compensation was allowed, if desired, to the officers of this society, but no part of the principal of their fund was ever to be "expended for any purpose whatsoever," etc. This act of incorporation was passed in February, 1807.

The first meeting of the society was held March 30, 1807, when Peter Thacher, Jr., was chosen clerk, Eliphalet Wilmarth, Jr., treasurer, and Joab Daggett, Thomas French, Peter Thacher, Jacob Bolkcom, Nathaniel Robinson, Noah Blandin, and Ezra Brown, trustees. The necessary by-laws were duly framed and accepted, and signed by Joab Daggett, "Chareman" of the board of trustees. One of these by-laws is explicit: "It shall be the duty of the Trustees to notify at the meeting house door the Sabbath before they meet for renewing the securities, and if any Person neglects to renew his security at the time the Trustees meet for that purpose must expect to be called upon by an Attorney." Members of this society are persons qualified to vote in parish meetings, being supporters of the ecclesiastical society then in the second precinct.

Apparently the first mention of a new church occurred at a parish meeting held in March, 1819, and a committee of seven gentlemen was chosen to take into consideration the question of repairing the old church or building a new one. Nothing further seems to have been done for some time, but talk of a new building no doubt continued, and soon the propriety of placing it upon another lot must have entered into the discussions. The "meeting-house lot" contained about two acres, and while that was sufficiently large it was decided for very good reasons to obtain more land. About 1820 attempts were made by members of another faith to gain a foothold in the East precinct. Parish limits being then territorial, freemen, no matter what their peculiar forms of belief, would have rights in parish property. Obviously serious complications would be liable to arise under such circumstances, whether the sect seeking establishment should be one with which the existing one could coalesce or not, and some arrangement had to be made to meet this threatened exigency. The "Incorporated Cong. Society" presented itself as the solution of this problem, and accordingly on February 4, 1824, the parish voted to grant a petition made and transfer the meetinghouse and lot

to that society. Present emergencies seemed to be met by this transfer, but it might not avail for possible ones in the future, and it was deemed best to get another lot by some form of purchase, and steps in that direction were at once taken by the society. In May, 1824, the trustees of the Franklin Schoolhouse leased their lot to the society for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years under certain restrictions. This lot contained one fourth of an acre and had been given to them, as will be seen elsewhere, by Dr. Abijah Everett for the purposes of education. In order apparently to make this transfer good six heirs of Dr. Everett in October, 1824, quitclaimed all their "right, title and interest" in this land. In January, 1825, there was a purchase of about seventy-five rods of land made of Benjamin Bolkcom — this lay north of a part of the schoolhouse lot — and in September, 1827, a further purchase of about four rods was made of Gideon Sweet, and this also lay north of the schoolhouse lot. These transactions were in the name of Peter Thacher, who was trustee of the society.

In 1825 the new meetinghouse was built under the following conditions: February 24, 1824, a number of the prominent men of the place formed themselves into a company for the purpose of erecting a meetinghouse on or near the meetinghouse lot in the second precinct for the use of the Incorporated Congregational Society. The expense of building was to be divided into shares, in number not less than one hundred, and the price of each share was not to exceed fifty dollars. When the shares should all be taken, the company agreed to appoint a committee, who were to levy assessments on these as necessary for the cost of construction, and the members of the company were to be reimbursed for the money thus advanced by the sale of the pews in the completed house. All the terms of the agreement appear to have been complied with, and all the shares taken. There were thirty-six shareholders: Jacob Bolkcom, Peter Thacher, and Jesse Carpenter each took ten shares; Jonathan Bliss, six; Gideon Sweet and Ebenezer Tyler, five each; five gentlemen subscribed for four shares each, nine for two, and sixteen for one each. March 30, Jacob Bolkcom, Elijah Ingraham, Jonathan Peck, Noah Claflin, and Peter Thacher were chosen a committee to obtain plans and submit them to the company. On April 6 this committee were empowered "to purchase a lot of Col. Bolkcom, and also the School house lot to *sit* the meeting house on," and about a week later they were instructed "to take the North Baptist meeting house at the North end of Providence for a *sampl* with some variations." In the autumn this original committee were directed to make all the necessary arrangements for dedicating the new church, and that meeting was then *desolved*, as during the former proceedings had frequently been the case, to meet at "a *futer* time." In January, 1826, the company decided to finish the vestry at once, and a little later they voted to pay Jacob Capron $105 to complete that work, materials to be found. Peter Thacher was chosen to provide these materials, while Amos Starkey was

instructed "to see that the work was done in a workmanlike manner." Accounts show that the building cost, as before stated, about $6,000.

The society book furnishes a little further information. March 8, 1824, they "voted to Build a new meeting house provided the Subscription be *fild* to $5,000 in agreement with a Subscription paper for that purpose." At the same time it was "voted to dispose of the Old Meeting house," and further, "to give up the pews in the Old meeting house free of any remuneration provided there was a new meeting house built there being 20 in favour and 4 against (it being understood that all must agree to it or not any.)" A committee was chosen to make some arrangement with the pewholders if possible, but this could not be done, and appraisers were chosen. These were Benjamin Shephard, of Wrentham, General Shephard Leach, of Easton, and Melitiah Everet, of Foxborough. November 1, 1825, a committee of five, later increased to nine, was chosen to dispose of the old building "at their discretion by taking it off of the lot in two months from date." It required nearly twice as many men to dispose of the old church as to build the new one, but they managed to complete the laborious task after some fashion. The building was taken down, for it is known that some of its timbers were used elsewhere, but not in what building.[1]

Among all the organizations connected with this church it must have been difficult at times to define duties. In the agreement of the building company, however, a good bell was included, the first placed in the village, no doubt, and the parish had to pay for ringing it. Very soon there was trouble with the bounds around the new meetinghouse, and in 1830 it is recorded that some *villin brok* a window. "Praise services" may not be of as recent origin as most of us suppose, for in 1836 the parish "voted to use the Meeting house on Sunday evening for a sacred music" — concert probably the clerk intended to write. It was in this year that the parsonage was sold, and the society voted to put the proceeds into bank stock. In May, 1838, it was voted by the company to instruct Peter Thacher, "Trustee of the Proprietors of their Meeting House and Lot," to give a deed of that estate to the society, he having held it for some years previous in trust for them. This was accordingly done on the thirty-first of that month, "upon the express condition that

[1] The late Jonathan Bliss, who with his brother George owned the Farmer's mill property, and who built and occupied the large house on the west side of the road, opposite the residence of Mr. Homer M. Daggett, purchased the entire building as it stood. There was some decided opposition to the erection of a new meetinghouse, and threats were openly made to Mr. Bliss to the effect that if he attempted to take down the old one it would be burned, as the opposition preferred burning and total destruction to tearing down and further use. He paid no attention to these threats, however, but had a gang of men in readiness and as soon as the bargain was made set them to work and the task of demolition was accomplished without molestation. What became of the lumber is not known, but Mr. Jonathan Bliss, son of the above and now resident here, is the authority for these statements, and he says he had the old square pews to use for playhouses. These had turned posts all around their tops for ornament. He has no recollection of ever hearing his father say what price was paid for this lumber, a fact which would be of much interest at the present day if it could be ascertained.

the said society shall control manage and use the said lot and house as they shall think proper providing nevertheless the said lot and house shall be exclusively used and improved for the worship of God by the Said Congregational Society, and by their associates and successors," etc.

Nowhere were the dimensions of the new building found, but they were the same as at present with the exception of the length. It was painted white and so continued for many years and, after the Methodist church was built, was often designated as "the white church." There was at first but one gallery, that at the south end for the use of the singers, and the pulpit was in front of and on a level with it. This pulpit was painted white and had pillars in front, between which sat the deacons, and, the stairs being hidden, it was a source of great wonderment to small children how the minister reached his seat. The pews then faced the south, but in 1838 this order was reversed, the pulpit placed at the north end, and the side galleries put in. Not long before the old white pulpit was taken away, the then youthful minister of the parish, Mr. Crane, stood up in front of it to be married; after this it lay for a long time in the Bolkcom yard, now Dr. Bronson's, and finally disappeared. The new pulpit was of mahogany, ponderous and high, and the sofa and chairs were of the same material and covered with black hair-cloth. The parsonage money seems to have been used to make these repairs, arrangements being made to replace it. In 1826 the company voted to heat the church "with a furnice or like the new meeting-house in Taunton." This proposed method was certainly not then adopted, for two stoves at the south end with long pipes extending under the galleries were for many years the heating apparatus used. The music about this time, forty or fifty years ago, consisted usually of six pieces. For years Daniel Claflin played the double bass-viol, Deacon Harvey Claflin and William Carpenter the single bass-viols, Eben Smith the violin, E. Gardener Tripp the trombone, and, for a time at least, a Mr. Hunt, of Taunton, the flute. The habit of facing the singers had become so "firm fixed" that the people continued to indulge in it once in each service at least for more than seventy-five years, and it was only a few years ago that this awkward turning about was altogether abandoned. In 1850 an organ purchased by subscription was presented to the society, and the first organist, Mr. E. E. Fuller, commenced playing on the first Sunday in April of that year. A record of his full salary was not found, but the previous year the chorister was paid $25. Mr. William D. Wilmarth became organist in 1854 and continued for a great many years.

In 1853 the parish began to talk of enlarging the meetinghouse, and in the spring of 1854 the society appointed Zenas B. Carpenter a committee to consult a lawyer and see how this could be done legally. As a result some alterations in the act of incorporation seem to have been made, as the society was not at first empowered to hold real estate. November 4, 1857, the parish chose John Daggett, Jesse R. Carpenter, and Daniel Wilmarth a committee

to attend to repairs, etc., and the report they duly made was accepted and ordered to be sent to the church. This is all the parish records furnish relating to this matter, the society having it in charge chiefly. In December, 1857, they chose these three gentlemen with Sumner E. Capron and Godfrey Wheelock their committee for the same purpose. Alterations were accordingly made. The meetinghouse was cut in two, and a piece set in, long enough to contain seven pews, twenty-eight being thus added to the former number. One or two pews were taken away just before the pulpit, which was changed for a lower and smaller one, with proper attendant furnishings, the old ones being sent to the vestry, where some of the chairs are still in use. The gallery fronts were lowered, and pew doors removed. Furnaces were put in, and it was at this time perhaps that, as has been said, "more thunder was added to the organ." Various other changes were made, and marked improvements were made in the vestry.

October 30, 1858, the building committee made their final report to the society, and a few extracts from it are here given: "In the judgment of your Committee the House is now worth Twelve Thousand Dollars, ($12,000), that a new one finished and furnished as this is could not be built short of that sum. We have now a House of worship of which we need not be ashamed either in its exterior form or interior finish," which "has been much beautified by Fresco Painting and other ornaments. It is not like the old one offensive to good taste. The Committee think that the greatest improvement, one that will be the most often appreciated, is that of the vestry. It is now one of the most convenient in its form and arrangements, pleasant and neat in its appearance, and is not exceeded if equaled by any Room of the kind known to us. Although it has cost something to make the alterations it is now worth it. It presents a most striking contrast with the old one." Not a word of this description, excepting the last sentence, is true of the vestry to-day. These repairs cost $4,200. Citizens of the place subscribed $500 to purchase and put up the clock; the ladies had a fair which netted $300, which with presents, etc., they increased to over $500. The society fund, which had been increased to $4,000 or more, was used to pay for the new pews put into the building, and these, still owned by the society, represent that sum. The work was superintended by Mr. Jesse R. Carpenter with his usual energy and finished promptly. On its completion appropriate dedicatory services were held.

As stated, the parish in 1824 transferred their interest in the meetinghouse and lot to the society. This was not a legal sale, as was afterwards ascertained, but was confirmed by the Legislature, which gave further authority to the society to dispose of the building. The society has no legal power to raise funds for the care, repairing, or building of a meetinghouse, as the parish has, and therefore much embarrassment has at times attended its proceedings in connection with that organization, and many complications have arisen.

It was therefore deemed proper after due investigation and deliberation for the society to transfer this property back to the parish, and this they accordingly agreed to do December 17, 1860.

At a parish meeting held August 1, 1872, a committee was appointed to report upon the question of buying or building a parsonage, and it was at length decided to purchase a house and lot on Peck Street, owned by Charles I. Cobb, for the sum of $5,000. Alterations and improvements have from time to time been made, and it has been occupied by the several pastors who have been over the church since its purchase.

During this year, 1887, the question as to the advisability of purchasing another lot and building a new church has been much agitated, and some steps in that direction have been taken, chiefly on the part of some of the ladies of the parish, who have pledged themselves to do all in their power to accomplish this desired object. Nothing definite has been done, however. A meeting was held in which some propositions or suggestions were advanced, and the ladies hoped the gentlemen would feel sufficient interest to secure a lot which seemed appropriate and was then available. Enough interest was not awakened, and, the lot being too expensive for the ladies to assume the responsibility of its purchase alone, nothing further was done. Many consider a change in location necessary, while others deem the present site as agreeable as any in or near the centre of the village, and to build far from the centre in any direction would be to benefit a few at the cost of the present equal convenience to the many.[1]

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[1] Since the above was written, some further steps tending toward a new church have been taken. A special meeting of the Ladies' Sewing Society was called for January 4, 1889, and held at the house of Mr. E. S. Capron on that date to hear and act upon a proposition to be made by Mr. G. A. Dean. This related to "the Weaver estate" on North Main Street, consisting of a lot of land 90x165 feet in size, with a cottage and barn standing thereon, and then for sale by the administrator, Mr. D. H. Smith. Twenty-seven ladies were present, and by a nearly unanimous vote it was decided to purchase this property. The price paid was $4,600. A small portion only was paid at once, the society assuming the remainder of the debt, which was to be paid as they should be able to earn or raise the money to cancel it. The deed was passed January 15, 1889, and signed by George A. Dean and Everett S. Capron, trustees for the society, and Emma L. Battey, secretary of the same. The ladies have been greatly prospered in their good work, and considerable reductions of the debt have been made. While many consider the situation of this lot unsuitable, no one apparently criticizes the action of the ladies in making this purchase, because the property is a good investment and should it never be used as a church lot it could doubtless be sold at a considerable advance over the price paid. Quite recently the gentlemen have been roused to take some action in this matter, and a committee has been appointed, which has held some meetings, but nothing very definite appears as yet to have been accomplished.

In September, 1892, the society made an additional purchase of land (100x163 feet in size) from the Hayward estate for $4,500. It has now 200 feet front on North Main Street and 163 feet on the extension of Dean Street, a lot ample in size should the church ever decide to use it as a building site.

For a number of years the question of incorporating the church had been agitated, and at the annual meeting held January 1, 1892, a committee consisting of four gentlemen was appointed to consider the matter and take such steps as should seem advisable. This committee was not called together until the latter part of January, 1893, when by unanimous action it was decided to call the necessary legal meeting, which was held February 17, 1893. At that time the required action was taken, and the matter was soon consummated. The parish up to that time was the legal body, as such holding all the property and controlling all business affairs. It agreed to the desired change by

It would seem a pity that the land upon which a house for religious worship has stood for so many years, and which was given or obtained for that special purpose and no other, should be diverted, even if it could be, to business purposes. Ought religious bodies or those immediately associated with them to consent to such proceedings or ratify such transactions? There is diversity of opinion as to the power of the parish to give a good title to this land, some claiming that the meetinghouse stands on the schoolhouse lot, a title to which might be very doubtful, and others that it is on the Bolkcom land, regularly bought by the parish. These are questions which need not be discussed here, but changes of some kind seem to be inevitable either in a new building elsewhere or a renewed one here, the vestry having become entirely inadequate to the demands made upon it, especially by the Sabbath-school. The latter would be the plan the adoption of which would be urged by the author — retain the ancient site, preserve the ancient landmarks because of the hallowed associations which are clustered about this spot, with its old, spired meetinghouse and its little "city of the dead." And what object is more pleasing and restful to the eye in any scene — whether it be in the crowded city or the busy town, on the wooded hilltop, in the quiet valley, or by the shining waters of the lake — than a pretty church in a setting of vivid green, dotted with memorials to its own peculiar dead, peacefully "making a Sunday where it stands"? Then let the "white church" still stand in its wonted place, still hold within its honored walls the memories that passing years have gathered there. Those years have witnessed rude shatterings of some of its associations, but many abide here still which would depart forever should the church move elsewhere, and then the coming years would promise only change after change. The quiet of the Sabbath is indeed often broken by the shriek of engines and the rush of trains, and the people would fain have a more retired spot in which to worship God; but where in our busy village is such a spot to be found, a spot into whose precincts the rattle and clatter of activity will not dare to penetrate? Here as elsewhere, however, the majority must decide, and perhaps the old church home will soon be abandoned. Should this be, then let human ingenuity exert itself to the utmost to devise new laws, if necessary, to prevent further disturbance of the community's dead. Let the occupants of this "God's acre" slumber quietly on; no sound reaches their ears, no noise disturbs them; they heed

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selling its property to the church for a small sum in order to make a good title, and the latter is now its own governing body. The incorporation charter was granted March 1, 1893, to "The Second Congregational Church of Attleborough, Mass." Originally there were probably very few if any members of this parish who were not also members of the church, and the interests of the two bodies were then therefore one. With the increase of population this would naturally be changed, many becoming members of the parish not being members of the church, under which circumstances the affairs of the two bodies must at times inevitably clash. This was the fundamental reason for the change. The parish still exists, as it holds the Richardson School Fund, the duties of which trust are about all it now has to perform.

not the loud hum of business or the roar and rumble of passing trains; let them sleep their deep sleep in peace until the last trumpet shall awaken them.[1]

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[1] If it be judged that too much space has been devoted to the affairs of this particular church and society, let it be remembered that, because of the situation of their property, these have at times involved not only the entire community but the town. Furthermore, details available here and presented are typical of all the ancient churches in the town and, no doubt, of most of those formed during the early days of New England; and, again, in view of the prospect at the time of writing of an entire change — the possibility of the complete alteration of the old church building or its removal from its ancient site — it has seemed pardonable to the Editor to prolong the sketch.

It can hardly be deemed out of place in this note to mention the recent purchase of a fine large organ for this church at a cost of over $3,000, which was raised by subscription, entertainments, etc. It is certainly fitting to speak a word of high commendation of Mr. John Marsh, who has had the chief responsibility in this enterprise, and who has worked with unwearied patience and untiring zeal for its accomplishment. The new instrument has been placed in the northeast corner of the building, and a small room built in the opposite corner under the gallery and with an outside door for the pastor's use. The choir gallery is between them and behind the pulpit, which is moved forward, necessitating the removal of some front pews and all formerly on either side of the pulpit. The old choir gallery is used for pews. The organ was used for the first time publicly at a concert on July 5, 1894, given by Mr. S. B. Whitney and three members of the famous boy choir at the Church of the Advent in Boston, where he is the organist. The program was a most attractive one and rendered with true artistic taste and skill, and was a musical treat such as Attleborough rarely has the pleasure of hearing, and one long to be remembered.

CHAPTER X.

CHURCHES AND THE MINISTRY, CONTINUED. — NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH.

THIS church was constituted in 1769. Its existence, however, may be traced back to a date more than twenty years prior to that — 1747. It was at first and for many years afterwards of the Congregational order, though differing from that denomination in some respects. "There being," say the church records, "a considerable number of Christians in this place that are dissatisfied with the Constitution of the standing order of Churches in the land: they, with some others formed themselves into a society to worship God according to His word and spirit." This was called "a church of New Lights, or Separatists," and it consisted of seventy-four members. January 20, 1747, the church proceeded "to set apart their esteemed Brother Nathaniel Shepard by solemn ordination as their Pastor," and "the day after, Joshuay Everett and William Carpenter were ordained Deacons."

Mr. Shepard was born in Norton, February 13, 1713. He was the son of Isaac Shepard and a descendant of Jacob Shepard, of Wrentham (now Foxborough), who was a son of Thomas Shepard, of Milton. Till he came of age he lived in different towns in the vicinity of Boston, and tradition says he was a tailor. He married Mindwell, daughter of John Woodward, of Newton. After his marriage he settled in the town of Brookline and became a member of a church there. It was some time later that he became a preacher. He continued pastor of this church until his death, which occurred April 14, 1752. He had the reputation of being an earnest preacher. The house in which he died is said to have stood a few rods from the one occupied by Ellis Blackinton. It is also said "a very large assembly attended his funeral." A Mr. Carpenter, of Norton, preached the sermon, and "his body was interred in the burying place nearly opposite to Col. Hatch's tavern." His children were Jonathan, Nathaniel, Ebenezer, Mindwell, Isaac, Elizabeth, Jacob, Hannah, and Samuel.

This church was from the commencement small and feeble. It "continued public worship and brotherly discipline," but its "number became smaller and smaller from year to year." For many years it was difficult to determine precisely the real standing of the church members and their doctrinal points in regard to other denominations. For a long period they seemed to be neither exactly Congregationalists nor Baptists. It struggled on "through many trials and discouragements" till the year 1769, when by vote it changed its constitution "from a Congregational to a Baptist Church in what is called

open communion." At this time there were six male and four female members who agreed in doctrine, and "they formed fellowship with the church in Bellingham, from whom they received aid." These six men were Josiah Maxcy, Ebenezer Guild, Joseph Guild, John Sprague, Joshua Everett, and John Cheever. June 5, 1769, they applied to the Bellingham church.

Two years previous to this time, in April, 1767, Mr. Abraham Bloss had moved from Sturbridge to Attleborough to take charge of this church. He was not installed, but preached here two years, till his death, September 16, 1769. During the previous year, 1768, the church had met together several times to consult upon the possibility of continuing upon the open communion plan, which they found to be impossible, and the result was the formation of the little church of ten members "on strict Baptist principles." Having thus settled down upon the Baptist platform, they soon united with the Warren Association, within whose limits the church was situated. This was in 1771, and the church remained in that association until 1837, when it joined the Taunton Association.

From the time of the formation there was a gradual increase in numbers. Once in three months Mr. Noah Alden preached for the people, and occasionally they were visited by other clergymen, until Elder Job Seamans "came among them." He was of "Sackville, Cumberland county, and Province of Nova Scotia," now in the Province of New Brunswick (1834). Mr. Seamans was born in Swansea, Mass., May 13, 1748. He removed to Sackville,[1] New Brunswick, with Elder Mason's company, who emigrated to that place from Swansea in 1763. He there became a preacher. After preaching for a time to the satisfaction of the church there, he came to New England to visit friends. He remained for a time in Providence with President Manning, of Brown University, who introduced him to the Attleborough church. He was invited to become its pastor, accepted the invitation, and in October, 1772, removed here with his family. A place was found for him with "widow the Chloe Blackinton." She had a farm and offered to let him take it on shares.

Elder Seamans was ordained December 15, 1773. The sermon was preached by Elder Backus, President Manning gave the charge, and the right hand of fellowship was given by Elder Charles Thompson. In 1779, he in conjunction with Elder Biel Ledoyt, of Woodstock, Conn., was appointed by the Warren Association a missionary to visit various parts of New Hampshire. In the course of the same year he returned to Attleborough, where he remained till 1788. He labored here very faithfully for about fourteen years. On May 10, 1787, he requested a dismission from the church in this place, which was reluctantly granted November 25 of the same year. In the

[1] The place was then called Tantarramar by the French and was int he Province of Nova Scotia. See Benedict's *History*.

first letter which he sent to the church regarding his dismission occur these words: "Beloved brethren, I came to you in peace, and have served you longer than Jacob served for his beloved Rachel and Leah. And, although I have served with many imperfections, yet I can say with truth, that I have strove to live in peace, and now I desire to depart in peace." When he came to the church there were twenty-three members; when he left there were seventy-four. He removed to New London, N. H., where he had preached during his mission, and was settled over the new Baptist church in that place, which he established at the same time. Here he continued till his death in 1830 at the advanced age of eighty-two. Mr. Seamans married Sarah Easterbrooks, by whom he had, while in Attleborough, eight children, four sons and four daughters.

Rev. William Williams,[1] who was a member of this church, and the respected pastor of the Baptist society in Wrentham, occasionally supplied the pulpit during the vacancies which occurred after the removal of Mr. Seamans.

November, 1789, Elder Abner Lewis came from New Bedford to Attleborough and continued the pastor of the church until September, 1795, when he returned to New Bedford. After this Mr. Laben Thurber preached here till April, 1797, when he relinquished the office of a religious teacher and removed to the east part of the town.

Elder James Read, who was then resident in Assonet village, Freetown, commenced preaching here in April, 1800, and was so well approved that in December of the same year the church gave him an invitation to settle, which was accepted. In February following he removed to Attleborough, and was installed August 18, 1801. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Gano, of Providence, the charge given by Elder Pitman, of Rehoboth, and the right hand of fellowship by Elder Baker. At the same time Edward Clark was ordained as an evangelist. Mr. Clark died April 22, 1811, in the seventy-second year of his age.

Elder Read was descended from John Read, one of the first settlers of Newport, R. I. His son John married and settled in Freetown in 1667. His children were Joseph, John, and Hannah. Elder Read was the son of Joseph Read and Mary, his wife, but the date and place of his birth are not known to the author. He was ordained in Tiverton, R. I., October 30, 1799,

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[1] He was a celebrated instructor of youth. He commenced a school for fitting young men for college near his meetinghouse in Wrentham, which he continued for many years with distinguished success. He educated upwards of one hundred students (Benedict's *History of the Baptists*), the most of whom graduated at Brown University. Many of them became distinguished men. In the number of his pupils were Dr. Maxcy, Hon. David R. Williams, formerly governor of South Carolina, and Hon. Tristam Burgess, the late eloquent member of Congress from Rhode Island, a celebrated lawyer in Providence and professor of oratory in Brown University.

Mr. Williams himself was educated at Eaton's Academy, New Jersey, and graduated at Brown University in 1769, which was the first class in that institution. He married for his second wife Miss Titus, the daughter of Deacon J. Titus, of Attleborough.

though not over the church in that place. He continued in the ministry in this town from the time of his installation until his death, which occurred October 21, 1814, in the forty-sixth year of his age.[1]

He was a worthy and useful minister and universally respected as a man. The records of the church bear ample testimony of the estimation in which he was held by his people. "In the prime of his life and in the midst of his usefulness, the Lord, who doeth all things according to his good pleasure, hath seen fit to remove him from the church militant to the church triumphant. Leaving the wife of his youth to mourn the loss of a kind husband, and three children to mourn the loss of a kind parent, and this church and society to mourn the loss of a faithful minister of the gospel, and one whose faithful warnings will long be had in remembrance by many of them." His funeral sermon was preached by Dr. Gano, and he was buried in the cemetery at Plainville.

Elder Read did not confine himself to labors in his own parish in this town, but took frequent preaching tours into other places. It is said of him: "He found much pleasure in preaching the gospel in the destitute places of Southeastern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut." He even went into western New York and always and everywhere found a "welcome in these then sparsely settled regions." One says: "It is believed that he thus laid the foundation of several churches. An absence of whole weeks on these missionary tours was always at his own expense. He returned home from them burning with a desire to be able to preach in other villages beyond. His salary was not ample enough to allow him to give his whole time to the church. There being no parsonage he rented a house and piece of land near the church, and by the produce of five days labor of the week, added to the support of his family." A member of his family says that his salary was three hundred dollars per annum, a sum that did not suffice to support his family even with the most rigid economy and industry. He had a small fund — $2,000 — which he had saved before he entered the ministry, and from this fund he drew from year to year as necessity required.

He was a kind-hearted and self-denying man, "an earnest, laborious preacher of the gospel, and his preaching eminently scriptural." One says: "Like Dryden's faithful pastor he

> 'Preached the joys of Heaven, and pains of Hell,
> And warned the sinner with becoming zeal,
> But on eternal Mercy, loved to dwell.'"

He was held in high esteem by his brother ministers, "and when God called him from his earthly labors to come up higher," one of them writes: "We and the churches feel and mourn his loss."

[1] He must have been born in 1768 or 1769. — EDITOR.

He delivered a "Century Sermon" on the one hundredth anniversary of John Shepard's ("the ancient") birth in Foxborough. This was about ten years before his death, and the occasion was made one of "great attraction."

Mr. Read married Rebecca Burton, of Warren, R. I., who died in 1833, aged sixty-six years. They had three children: Andrew B., who died in 1877; Samuel Stillman (the third son), who died about 1831 at the early age of twenty-seven; and James H. (the second son), born August 30, 1801, and who is still living at the period of this writing, having reached the very advanced age of eighty-five.[1]

April 28, 1815, Rev. Stephen S. Nelson, who was then preaching in Bellingham, was invited "to take the Pastoral care of this church." He was dismissed in May, 1820. For one year the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Jonathan Wilson, and the succeeding year by several ministers.

Rev. Silas Hall, of Raynham, came here in 1823 and remained four years. He was subsequently pastor of the Baptist church in Taunton. He was a veteran preacher in this part of the State, having supplied numerous churches in various towns. He continued his services as a preacher till near the time of his death, which occurred at Raynham.

Rev. William Phillips succeeded Mr. Hall as pastor. He was ordained here in February, 1827. The sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Benedict, of Pawtucket. Mr. Phillips graduated at Brown University in the class of 1826 and attended the Theological Seminary at Newton. He remained over the church here but two years, having received a call from the Third Baptist church in Providence to become their pastor, which he accepted. He continued there until 1842, when he resigned his charge and ever after declined settling as pastor over any society, though he continued to preach in neighboring churches till his death.

Mr. Phillips was born in Provincetown, Mass., August 24, 1801. He died May 30, 1879, at his residence near Providence, aged seventy-seven years, nine months, and six days. In 1827 he married Susan, daughter of Jeremiah Cole, of Providence. His second wife was Roxalana, daughter of Benjamin Edwards, of Charlestown, Mass. At his death he left a widow, five sons, and one daughter. In 1830 he was elected a trustee of Brown University and held the office till his death. In an obituary notice of him, published soon after his decease, the writer thus speaks of his character as a preacher: "In the pulpit Mr. Phillips gained attention by his rich and per-

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[1] Mr. Read has been for many years a resident of Providence, R. I. He was a warm friend of the author for a long period. He retains his faculties to a remarkable degree, has the vigor of intellect belonging to middle life, and his penmanship might be the envy of many a youth, as a beautifully written letter to the Editor, containing facts of much interest, bears ample testimony. Deacon Read died June 5, 1893, aged ninety-one years, nine months, and six days. ["He enjoyed pretty good health up to about a year before his death, and retained his mental faculties quite clear until within a few months when his mind seemed to fail some."]

suasive voice, and by his agreeable delivery. And his sermons, clear and orderly in their method, and full of thoughtful instruction, delivered from a study of the word, and a living, progressive Christian experience, had a charm and force of their own, imparted by the gentle and gracious character of the man, and the excellent spirit that was in him. He was a good man and true, and universally honored and loved."

Rev. Jonathan E. Forbush was received into the church and chosen pastor April 1, 1832, and remained for four years.

Rev. Silas Hall officiated a second time as pastor, commencing in January, 1837, and remaining two years.

Rev. Reuben Mowry was the next pastor. He came here in June, 1839, and continued a successful ministry for eight years till May, 1847, when he requested a dismission to accept a pastorate in Homer, N. Y.

Rev. N. G. Lovell had charge of the church for three years, commencing his labors in 1847 — being ordained June 23 of that year — and remaining until June, 1851. This was his last pastorate. He supplied a church in Valley Falls, R. I., for a few months and died there in November, 1851.

Rev. William H. Alden, now of Portsmouth, N. H., was ordained over this church September 1, 1852. He had supplied the pulpit for about a year previously, while still a student at Newton Theological Seminary. He continued in the pastorate till April 26, 1856, when he requested a dismission to accept the call of the First Church of Lowell, this State.

Rev. G. F. Warren was next called. He accepted the invitation of the church, and commenced his ministry October 1, 1857, when he was installed. He was dismissed in October, 1860, after a very successful pastorate.

Following Mr. Warren, Rev. J. F. Ashley, of Templeton, supplied the pulpit three months and was here on the breaking out of the war in the spring of 1861, when he enlisted. He was chosen captain of Company I, the volunteer company that was formed. "May 12th, the church unanimously passed a resolution earnestly protesting against the action of the company and the citizens, hoping he might be left to his duties at home." This action was of no avail and he led his company to the front. March 30, 1862, he asked to be dismissed. This request was granted, and his pastorate ended one year after its regular commencement.

Rev. Abijah Hall accepted a call October 19, 1862. In December, 1865, his repeated resignation was accepted. To him succeeded Rev. George Cooper for a few years. He was ordained here June 1, 1866, the regular duties of the pastorate being assumed the following October. He was dismissed at his own request in December, 1869, and went to Gloversville, N. Y. He is now in Richmond, Va. In 1871 Rev. Lyman Chase, of Hightstown, N. J., received and accepted a call from the church. He remained only about a year, but was much esteemed. In 1872 Rev. William Fitz, of Montpelier, Vt., became pastor, and during that year a commodious parson-

age was built. He resigned in 1873, because the society was not able to meet the obligation it had imposed upon itself as an inducement for him to take charge of the church.

In April, 1874, Rev. Samuel T. Frost became pastor. His labors ceased at his own request July 1, 1875. After him the church called Rev. W. H. Kling, of Wakefield, R. I., who became their pastor December 22, 1875. His ministrations ceased in the autumn of 1881. In the spring of 1883 a unanimous call from both church and society was extended to Rev. F. W. Towle, of Rochester, N. Y. He remained until the spring of 1886, becoming very much endeared to the people. At that time failing health made it necessary for him to resign his labors and employ himself in a different vocation.

In August of 1886 a unanimous call was extended to Rev. Charles H. Wheeler. He was born in Wellesly village in the town of Needham, this State. He graduated at Brown University in 1882 and at Newton Theological Seminary in 1885. He commenced pastoral labors in Pittsfield, N. H., and from that place came to this town. He was installed here October 6, 1886, on the anniversary of the yearly Associational gathering, and is the present pastor of the church (1887).[1]

The first meetinghouse was not finished till 1784, though it was erected many years previous, before the Revolutionary War, and meetings were held in it during that time. Peter Blackinton gave the lot on which it stood. The deed of gift was not made until some time after the house was built. It bears date October 13, 1783, and is given to "Daniel Daggett, Levi Maxcy, Gent., Joseph Guild, Jun., Yeoman," — the committee for the church, — "for the use of a meeting house lot, and that only forever." Further, "Said lot contains by estimation one third of an acre, be it more or less. (Reserve to said Blackinton one apple tree on said premises), — and said Society to maintain two thirds of the fence on said lot. With warranty." The first building was finished "in the old-fashioned style, with sounding-board, pulpit almost as high as the galleries, old men's seats fronting the pulpit, square, high, upright pews, with railings through which the minister was seen, no stoves, no window curtains."

The present meetinghouse was built in the spring of 1817 and is substantially the same as when erected. The present site "between the two roads, was offered by Col. Hatch, to which an addition was made by William Blackinton." The new building had at first no vestry and was twenty feet shorter than now, and the church continued to use the old building, which stood where the schoolhouse now stands, for its social meetings for a number of years after this was built. About the same time a house was purchased of the "Cotton Manufacturing Company" for a parsonage, which was used

[1] Rev. S. Knowles is the present pastor (1893).

until 1828. During that year a parsonage was built, it being the house later occupied by Mr. Dexter Day. The present parsonage, as has been stated, was built in 1872.

As we have seen, this church was formed in 1769, with ten members. In 1793 this number had increased to seventy-four, and ten years later there had been an additional increase of thirty. There have been periods of special revival under several of the pastors, notably Rev. Mr. Nelson. In 1813 there were one hundred and eleven members; in 1816, about a year after Mr. Nelson became pastor, the church had nearly doubled in size, there being then two hundred and seven members. The following year, 1817, "thirty-three were dismissed to form the Baptist Church in Foxborough." At the end of eight years from this time we find the numbers greatly reduced, there being then one hundred and twenty-five members; two years later we find one hundred and forty-nine; and in 1842, while Rev. Mr. Mowry was pastor, the largest number, two hundred and twelve. In 1844 quite a number were dismissed to form another church, and for more than ten years ensuing there seemed to be a steady though gradual decrease, until under Rev. Mr. Warren large additions were made, and under Rev. Mr. Cooper's pastorate the number again exceeded two hundred.

Many have left this church and congregation to worship with other societies in the vicinity, but the congregation is again increasing, and the present average is about two hundred, and the membership of the church one hundred and fifty-seven. The Sunday-school has about one hundred and sixty members, and the average attendance is about one hundred and forty.

"Connected with the Church is a legal Society, formed and organized under the R. S. by Hon. John Daggett, Feb. 11th, 1854." This society has the care of the property and the financial affairs of the church. Its resources are the voluntary offerings of its members and the congregation, as the sittings in the church are free to all who choose to attend the religious services.

SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH.

This church, which is now extinct, was established as early as 1760. Its records cannot be found. April 20, 1789, the first and second Baptist churches in Attleborough met and agreed upon fellowship as sister churches. Previous to this union there seems to have been some trouble over doctrinal matters. Elder Isaac Backus, of Middleborough, writes to the "Brethren" of this church, referring to those troubles. He and two brethren from his church were invited to be present at the ordination of some elder over the South Baptist church, which occurred July 3, 1765. Upon examination it was found that this church held to "communion with pedobaptists," therefore Elder Backus could not act with them. Other dissensions arose, but of their settlement the author knows nothing. The doctrinal matters must have

been satisfactorily arranged, or the union above mentioned could not have been consummated.

Elder Elihu Daggett was the first preacher. It is believed that he was never regularly settled here. He occasionally preached at the North Baptist church. He was the son of Deacon Mayhew Daggett, of this town. His wife was Rebeccah Stanley, daughter of Jacob Stanley, one of the first of that name who came here from Topsfield. He had two sons, Ichabod and Mayhew, in the French War.[1] He was interred in the north burying-ground. On his gravestone is the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Elder Elihu Daggett, who died August 29th, 1769, in the 60th year of his age." "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Rebeccah Daggett, (his widow) who died September 20th, 1799, in the 85th year of her age.

"*What we left behind us, others possess;*
What we gave to the poor, we carried with us."

The next preacher was Elder Elisha Carpenter, Jr. He was settled June 7, 1778, according to a certificate found cited on the town records. He remained pastor of the church till about 1798, when he removed to Providence, N. Y., where he died.

Elder Carpenter's connection with the church was evidently not entirely dissolved until some years later than the above date, for in a letter to a sister dated "Attleborough, Jan. 26, 1802," he mentions the business meeting at which the church dismissed himself and his wife and were about to send them "away in Peace, with recommendations as they thought best." He speaks of having preached a few sermons and should preach what he could while he stayed. From this letter it would seem that he was acceptable to the church, and they were loth to part with him.[2] He was a native of this town, a son of Elisha Carpenter, and was born August 17, 1745. His wife was Anna Freeman, also of this town.

Soon after Elder Carpenter's removal the church was dissolved and the members connected themselves with other churches in the vicinity. The meetinghouse was taken down about 1810. It stood on the south side of the road leading from what was known twenty years later as the late Thomas Cooper's place to that of Captain Joseph Tiffany.

FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY.

The first meeting was held August 17, 1816, when the society was organized. The original compact states that "Daniel Richardson, Jr., Obed Robinson, and forty others associated themselves together as the First Uni-

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[1] See Porter's *Memoir of Colonel Jonathan Eddy*, p. 4.

[2] He may have left town "about 1798," returning to preach sometimes, and the church may have refused a final dismission until about the date of the letter quoted. The expression "preach what he could" seems to imply feeble health. — EDITOR.

versalist Society in Attleborough." February 20, 1818, it was incorporated by Act of Legislature under that name. The first religious services were held in a hall belonging to Samuel Newell, of West Attleborough. He was the proprietor of "Newell's Tavern" at that time, and this hall was no doubt the one connected with his famous inn.

The first minister was the Rev. Richard Carrique, who commenced preaching here in May, 1817. A lot was purchased, and during the summer of 1818 a meetinghouse was built. It stood on the old post road a few rods south of the First Congregational meetinghouse and opposite Newell's tavern. The building was dedicated on December 29, 1818, at which time Mr. Carrique was ordained (or installed?) and Rev. Hosea Ballou preached the sermon. Very little is known of Mr. Carrique's previous or subsequent life. A notice of the death of his son in Pawtucket states that he was born in Williamstown, this State, and from the dates given it would seem that the father must have resided in that place previous to his coming to this town. The same account speaks of the Rev. Mr. Carrique as "a much respected clergyman," and he was doubtless a man of considerable ability. He delivered an oration in the Baptist church upon a memorable occasion, and he seems to have been always connected with matters of public interest. During his residence in town he held meetings in the East village in Bolkom's hall, and to these attempts to establish an interest in this denomination in that part of the town there was decided and marked opposition manifested on the part of some at least of the "orthodox" residents. Mr. Carrique's salary was four hundred and fifty dollars a year. He was dismissed in January, 1822.

The next minister was the Rev. Robert Kilham, who commenced preaching March 18, 1822, and was soon after installed. He was dismissed in April, 1828. To him succeeded the Rev. Nathaniel Wright, who was installed during that same year, 1828. He remained for several years — was here doubtless in 1834 — but the date of his dismission could not be ascertained.

The church thus continued for quite a number of years at Oldtown, but at length — and probably not long subsequent to the last-mentioned date — the society or some of its members commenced holding services in North Attleborough. Where these were at first held is not known to the writer, but after continuing them for a time sufficient interest was manifested to warrant the purchase of a lot, which was accordingly done, and in 1841 a new church edifice was erected on the site still occupied by the society. This building was dedicated on the 3d of November, 1841, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. William S. Balch, of Providence. The records state: "The weather was fine, the house was full as we could seat and stand, and some could not get in."

Meanwhile the church at West Attleborough dwindled away and finally ceased to exist. "The building was sold at auction and bought by Mr.

Bartholomew Cushman who later sold it to the Methodists at North Attleborough." They took it down and removed it to that village, putting it up on the lot where the high school building now stands. (This was the society, it is said, many of whose members embraced the faith of the Millerites, and the building was used by that sect for its religious services.) Subsequently Mr. H. M. Richards became its owner and removed it to the Union House lot, joining it to that hotel, where it was used as a hall. When the hotel was burned, the hall was also burned.

In March, 1841, Rev. Benjamin H. Davis assumed the ministerial charge of the society, and succeeding him Rev. Mr. Lloyd and Rev. Mr. Coffin had charge each for a short time, but at what precise dates is not known.

Rev. J. D. Pierce became pastor in 1845, but after three years, on account of failing health, he was obliged to relinquish his duties. After his resignation in 1848, Rev. Joseph S. Dennis accepted the charge and remained until 1852. He was followed by Rev. C. Craven in January, 1853, who remained but a short time.

In May, 1855, Mr. Pierce was recalled to the pastorate from Claremont, N. H., and accepted. For more than a quarter of a century he was the faithful and devoted minister of this society, and was always ready for every good work which he found to do, and interested himself in whatever concerned the general interests and welfare of the town. He was particularly earnest in promoting the cause of common school education and was for many years an active member of the school committee, as well as a teacher. By his wise and judicious conduct and exemplary character he won and justly deserved the respect and confidence of all denominations throughout the town, and his death was regarded as a great public loss.

The following Memorial Record [1] was prepared by a committee chosen for the purpose and presented by them to the First Universalist Society.

"Joseph Dexter Pierce was born in the town of Scituate, Massachusetts, Nov. 15th, 1815. Having lost his father in early youth, he was brought to manhood by a mother's care. In early life he was apprenticed as a carpenter, and for some time worked at his trade. He had, however, a taste for intellectual pursuits, and, at his own expense, obtained a thorough academic education in the public schools of his native town, and at the Derby Academy in Hingham, Mass. He studied for the ministry with Rev. Dr. Hosea Ballou, 2d, the first President of Tufts College at Medford, Mass.

"While yet a student he preached his first sermon, Nov. 10th, 1839, in East Boston, where he was ordained the same year. After a few months labor in East Boston, he received a call to the Universalist society in Hart-

[1] Copied from the Attleborough Chronicle of February 23, 1884. The committee were B. Porter, Jr., S. H. Bugbee, E. R. Price.

land, Vermont, and was settled there Sept. 13th, 1840. This pastorate continued nearly five years, until May 11th, 1845.

"At the age of twenty-nine years he received a call to the First Universalist society in Attleborough, and preached his first sermon as pastor of this society, June 29th, 1845. This ministry, after three years successful service, he was obliged to resign on account of ill-health. He continued to reside here, and on the recovery of his health, engaged in teaching in this place, and did pastoral work in Wrentham until the spring of 1850, when the First Universalist society of Claremont, New Hampshire, extended to him a call to become their pastor.

"He accepted the call and commenced his labors March 17th, 1850. His ministry in that place continued five years, and was so successful, that, to this day, there are people in Claremont who remember with grateful emotion the words of truth and sympathy which fell from his lips.

"In May, 1855, he received a unanimous call to return to the First Universalist society at North Attleborough, and accepted it. His first sermon, after his recall, was preached June 3d, 1855. Here he labored unceasingly in the Master's vineyard until called to receive the reward of those who love their fellowmen, Tuesday, Nov. 16th, 1880, at the age of sixty-five years and one day.

"During this pastorate of more than twenty-five years he worked heartily and suffered cheerfully, that he might advance the good doctrine in which he firmly believed — 'that from the beginning, God had chosen all men to salvation, through sanctification of the spirit, and belief of the truth.' He was a constant attendant upon conventions and conferences, and interested in all the work of the denomination. He served thirteen years as a member, and most of the time as chairman, of the committee on Fellowship, Ordination and Discipline. He was interested too, in all educational and benevolent enterprises. But his chief work was in his pulpit, in pastoral work, and in the Sunday School. As a sermonizer, a reasoner, he stood high in the estimation of his brethren. As a pastor, carrying the faith he preached, and doing his Master's work, wherever sickness and sorrow called him, in all the homes of his own parish, and often in the homes of other parishes and denominations, he came as near the standard of the good minister of Christ as it falls to the lot of man to attain. When the church edifice was enlarged and improved, his heart was cheered; and the prosperity of the society assured, when by his efforts the church was organized. And so much did he value its influence that almost his last work was an effort to enlarge its membership and secure its efficiency. Such are the simple annals of the good minister of Christ.

"Joseph Dexter Pierce had a natural gift of preaching, and his daily life exemplified the spirit and teachings of the Divine Master. Of feeble health, — he once said that he had not known a waking hour free from pain for

fifteen years, — yet he devoted his time and talents to the work he loved with tireless zeal. He was in all the higher and grander elements of character an almost exceptional man. In him, living, this church and the world had a true exponent of the principles of Universalism, one, who by the daily beauty of his life gave dignity and power to its teachings, and who, dying, left his character to this society for their guidance and imitation, and his memory as a sacred trust."

November 30, 1855, Mr. Pierce married Martha S. Price, oldest daughter and child of George and Martha Grant Price, of this town. Four daughters of this marriage survive: Agnes, Mrs. John D. Long; Bertha, Mary W., and Helen, Mrs. Charles Esseltyn.

Mrs. Pierce was in every way eminently fitted for the position of a minister's wife. She was a woman of superior intellectual endowments and attainments and therefore an aid and an inspiration to her husband in the public duties of his office. She was possessed of a true, unselfish nature, a pure and lovely Christian character, and was peculiarly adapted to be the helpmeet of such a man as he was in all his faithful, unselfish ministrations among the suffering and sorrowing of his people. She survived him but a few years and died December 14, 1886, not only universally regretted, but mourned for with a real, heartfelt sorrow by all those who knew her well.

Mr. Pierce was a man of rare character, and he lived a rarely unselfish life, endearing himself to all who came in contact with him to an unusual degree. One recently testified to the truth of this statement and spoke of hearing frequent mention of his great worth, while to this day many humble persons repeat the story of his deeds of kindness and true charity to them and with simple, earnest words touchingly tell their own sorrow for his loss. Truly he was of such good men as they of whom the Master said: "They shall have their reward," and when they "rest from their labors, their works do follow them."

The church edifice, built and dedicated in 1841, was twice somewhat changed, once in 1859 and again in 1865, when it was enlarged and improved both externally and internally. From that time it remained wholly unchanged till it was abandoned, a period of nearly twenty years, though it became in every way inadequate to the needs of the parish.

The members of the society who previous to 1840 removed from West to North Attleborough retained the original parish organization, and the society is therefore the one incorporated in 1818. With the church it is otherwise. Its members for some reason declined to remove from Oldtown and continued there for a time as a regular religious body, but finally diminished so that the church died away and the original organization was lost. Up to 1859 the only organization in North Attleborough was that of a *society*, but on March 9, 1859, when upon the completion of the alterations and repairs the edifice was rededicated, a *church* of about forty members was formed.

This was the result largely of the zealous efforts of the then pastor, Rev. Mr. Pierce, who had been laboring continually for a long period with this end in view.

The Rev. John S. Cantwell, D.D., was the pastor who succeeded Mr. Pierce. He came here February 12, 1881, and was installed on the twenty-seventh of the following May. Soon after this time a decided movement was made in the direction of the much-needed new church building, and the good work was so earnestly and efficiently pushed forward that sufficient funds were subscribed in a short time. One of the original terms of the subscription was that no debt should be allowed to remain on the completed edifice. Plans were adopted and labor commenced by removing the old and laying the foundations for the new building, all of which was accomplished by September, 1882. The old building was purchased by the Wamsutta Hotel Association and placed on Elm Street adjoining the hotel, where it is used as a hall, and where for some time the town meetings of North Attleborough have been held.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid September 18, 1882, and the occasion was made very interesting. The exercises commenced with an appropriate introductory address by the pastor of the church, following which was the Scripture reading by Rev. Mr. Illman and a prayer offered by Rev. C. W. Tomlinson, D.D., of Pawtucket. The choir of the church sang the hymn "O! sing unto the Lord a new song"; and a hymn, written for the occasion by Mrs. Frank Mason, was sung by the entire concourse of people to the tune "America." Then came the ceremony of laying the cornerstone in its place with the impressive ritual of the Order by officers of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The cornerstone is a large brown stone, engraved on the front or eastern side with an inclined cross, on the north side with the square and compass, and on the south side with the date 1882. Sixty-eight different articles were placed in the cavity, such as photographs, specimens of coin and scrip, copies of newspapers, a history of the society, etc., and some of these were special gifts for this purpose. As the stone was lowered to its position, the Temple Quartet, of Boston, rendered the anthem "Lift Thine Eyes" with beautiful effect. Then followed the special ceremonies of the Masonic Order upon such occasions, during which more music was rendered by the Temple Quartet, the final piece being "Keller's American Hymn." As the closing notes of that beautiful song died away, fifty of the Sunday-school children came forward, and each one placed a bouquet of flowers about the cross upon the stone — a fitting service appropriately performed in laying the foundation for a sacred edifice. The address of the day was delivered by Rev. A. J. Patterson, D.D., of Boston, and was very eloquent. The singing of the Doxology by all the people brought the exercises to a close, and Rev. T. W. Illman, then pastor of the Second Universalist society, pronounced the benediction.

At the time work was commenced on the new building $31,000 had been subscribed exclusive of the amount realized from the sale of the old building. The edifice was completed in less than two years and was dedicated April 17, 1884. It is of the Gothic style of architecture, constructed of red brick, the front especially being handsome and effective. The tower is one hundred and forty feet high, its base sixteen feet square, with corner buttresses, and the windows set in ornamental brickwork. The clock is fifty-six feet from the base, and above this the tower becomes six-sided, tapering upward in a beautiful spire. On the corner opposite the tower is a porch with a gable thirty feet in height, and connecting the two a cloister thirty-eight feet long covered by a receding roof. Above this cloister "is the most beautiful feature of the front, — a foliated window twenty feet across, and sixteen feet to its keystone." The point of this window arch is sixty-two feet high and is ornamented with brickwork, as are all the other windows throughout the building.

On the north side of the edifice is the chapel, two stories high and containing several rooms, with an L in the rear which contains the library, infant schoolroom, etc. Upon the west side is the parsonage, an attractive two-story house. There are in the front of the church two vestibules connected by the cloister and each opening into the main audience room, which is "sixty feet either way." This is a cheerful, well-lighted room, having neither gallery nor ceiling. The pulpit is opposite the front entrance doors, and the pews are arranged in semicircular form, with the choir gallery and organ on the north side of the pulpit. Behind this gallery is the door of communication with the chapel. The Sabbath-school room on its first floor is also a well-lighted room, thirty-four by thirty feet in size, and above it are the parlor, tea room, and kitchen, all thoroughly appointed. In the rear of the audience room is the passage leading to the parsonage, whose interior quite fulfils the expectations raised by its exterior, for it is a pretty and commodious house. The entire structure pleases and satisfies the eye and presents a striking appearance. It is very handsome, but neither too much so nor too imposing for its surroundings, — a country village, — but is appropriate to its position and a great ornament. It was erected at a cost of $40,000 and is said to be the handsomest church of the denomination in this State. The idea of placing no debt upon the building was carried out in both letter and spirit, a fact we heartily wish could be recorded of every church edifice of every sect throughout the entire land.

There are eight memorial windows in the audience room, placed there by friends and relatives in memory of the following persons: Captain and Mrs. Abraham Hayward, Mrs. Oscar M. Draper, Rev. Joseph D. Pierce, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Richards, Mr. Stephen Richardson, Mrs. Helen D. Smith (wife of C. E. Smith), Mrs. Juline Richards (wife of the late H. M. Richards), and Mrs. Franklin. The memorial to Mrs. Draper, the beautiful central window

in the front of the church, is the largest and handsomest of the number. That to Mr. Pierce is on the opposite end of the church, over the pulpit, and the other six are placed three on either side of the building.

Dr. Cantwell resigned March 1, 1884. The following November the present pastor, Rev. William F. Potter, came here and was installed in January, 1885.[1] He was born in Southbridge, this State, in May, 1843. He received both his academical and theological education at St. Lawrence University, in Canton, N. Y., where he graduated in 1868. His first pastorate was in Merrimac, Mass., and previous to his coming to this town he had charge of churches in Wakefield, Arlington, and East Boston respectively. This is his largest charge. His wife was Miss Lotta Lord, of St. Lawrence County, N. Y.

There is a prosperous Sabbath-school connected with this church. Much attention is given to the music here, and the choir far exceeds in excellence that of any other church in town. The service of song holds a far more important place in the ceremonies of religious worship to-day than it held in those of our early New England fathers, and the present standard of education in this regard pronounces a liberal expenditure of money in the direction of obtaining the best possible music in our churches a wise expenditure. This large society has now a worthy and appropriate church edifice, one adequate to its needs and almost perfect in its appointments. The only regret possible in its contemplation is that the heart of him who worked his lifework among this people could not have been cheered and encouraged by witnessing this proof of earnest effort on their part, and that his eyes could not have been gladdened by the sight of its beautiful completion — a reward for his untiring zeal and the consummation of his dearest earthly hopes.

HEBRON CHURCH.

This church was gathered by Rev. Thomas Williams immediately after his dismission from the west parish in 1827. On the 25th of December of that year several members of the First Church who resided in or near the village now called Hebronville (or Hebron) requested dismissal for the purpose of forming a new church, and they "unitedly agreed, in order to their greater usefulness in promoting the interests of religion, to become a new church, under the creed of Congregationalism." A small but neat meetinghouse was built at the same time on the line between Attleborough and Seekonk, — half in one town, half in the other, — to which and the neighborhood the name of Hebronville was given by the founder.

Rev. Mr. Williams became the first pastor. He was the son of Joseph and Lucy Ritter Williams and was born in Pomfret, Conn., November 5,

[1] Mr. Potter resigned May 1, 1889, on account of ill-health. Rev. F. A. Dillingham is the present pastor.

1779. He entered Williams College in 1795, but in 1798 went to New Haven and graduated at Yale College in 1800. During the three succeeding years he was a teacher in Beverly and Boston, Mass., and Woodstock and Norwich, Conn. In the year 1804 he studied theology with Dr. Emmons, of Franklin. He was ordained as an evangelist at Killingly, Conn., May 16, 1804. During the years 1803–4–5 he also acted as a home missionary in New York, in addition to the other occupations mentioned. In 1806 he preached for a few months in Branford, Conn., and during the nine years succeeding he was acting pastor of the Pacific Church, in Providence, R. I. November 6, 1816, he was installed over the church at Foxborough, and was dismissed in November, 1821, having meanwhile again become acting pastor over his former church in Providence.

He was installed over the First Church in this town September 29, 1824, and dismissed "by mutual consent, without council," December 11, 1827, when, as has been seen, he became the pastor of the Hebronville church. This connection was dissolved in 1832. From that time on he was largely engaged in missionary service, especially in Providence and its vicinity. He was for several years acting pastor in Barrington, R. I., resided in Hartford, Conn., and East Greenwich, R. I., for a short period, returning from the latter place to Providence, where he remained until his death. It is said that during the period from April, 1840, to November, 1868, he preached not less than 2,200 times. In 1814 Brown University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

On May 20, 1812, he married Ruth, the daughter of Isaac and Ruth Jewett Hale, of Newbury, Mass., by whom he had seven children. She died at Providence March 7, 1867. Mr. Williams died in the same place, of old age, September 29, 1876, aged ninety-six years, ten months, and twenty-four days. For several years "he had been the senior surviving graduate of Yale College, and he was the last living graduate of an American college in the eighteenth century."

Mr. Williams was a clergyman well known in this vicinity, and particularly to the people of this town, in whose churches even for many years after he ceased his pastorates he was a frequent preacher. Many will remember "Father Williams," as he was called in his later years; they will recall the rather tall, spare form, clothed in garments of a somewhat quaint fashion; the scanty, flowing white locks; the broad forehead, prominent nose, sunken cheeks; the large, determined mouth and the piercing, fiery eye; they will recall too the voice, which was low, almost indistinct at times, but which when he became interested and animated in his preaching rose to a higher pitch, growing louder and louder until its penetrating tones fell with perfect distinctness upon every listening ear. His sermons and prayers both seemed rather long to this generation, which demands its complete religion in a nut-shell, the opening of which shall consume but a short space of even the Lord's

day; but both were couched in clear, well-defined terms, and the language was forcible, often eloquent, and always easy to be understood, for his trumpet bore "no uncertain sound." He was, as someone has written, "a man of vigorous and active mind, one who entertained decided opinions on all subjects, religious and secular, and who was fearless in expressing them. He was animated in the delivery of his sermons, and always secured the attention of his hearers, not merely by his matter and manner, but by occasional use of strong and peculiar language. In preaching and sermonizing he indulged largely in doctrinal subjects, and he adhered during his long life to the theology of New England."

He enjoyed peculiarly the power of wit and sarcasm, which he used when occasion required. He often engaged in discussions on public affairs and on various subjects, chiefly perhaps on religious doctrinal points, and he never failed to repel the attacks of his opponents with keen repartee; and he always said something which they had reason to remember. Many anecdotes are extant of his quick retorts in these discussions, which often completely shattered the bolts of his adversaries, leaving them powerless and himself the easy victor in the field.

He was a truly disinterested man, laboring often without hope of reward and hardly reserving to himself sufficient funds to meet his own necessary expenses on the journey of life. "He regarded himself as an instrument in the hands of his Master," one says, and "he appeared to me the most disinterested laborer I ever knew."

He was the author of several volumes of sermons and numerous pamphlets, and he furnished divers articles for various periodicals. A number of these publications passed through several editions. They are too numerous to mention all of them, but a few are given, as they show the character of the man: "An Explicit Avowal of Nothingarianism, In a sermon by Demens Egomet," another sermon by the same writer, "The Greatest Sermon that ever was preached," "Little Sermons on Great Subjects," "Jehovah; or, Uni-Trini-tarianism, A Sermon," "A Discourse on the Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty," "A Sermon on the Perfection of God, in the Imperfection of His People," etc.

His most interesting discourse was his funeral sermon on Dr. Emmons' death, which occurred September 28, 1840, entitled "The Official Character of Rev. Nathanael Emmons, D.D., Taught and Shown in a Sermon on His Life and Death." It was understood to be the agreement between these two some time before the death of either of them that the survivor should preach the funeral sermon of the other. This discourse was prepared by Mr. Williams years before Dr. Emmons died, and he made a journey to Franklin to read it to the subject. The good Doctor seemed to find it not wholly satisfactory, for after a time he interrupted his friend and began to demur at so much praise, insisting it was not deserved. "Tut, tut, Dr. Emmons,"

said Father Williams, "you must remember that you are a dead man;" and he went on with his reading, omitting we are sure not a jot or a tittle of the prepared eulogy.

Mr. Williams was a man of very strongly marked character in every respect and of equally marked abilities. He was in a singular degree a man of one purpose, and to that purpose he devoted himself entirely through his long life. For more than threescore years and ten he labored actively and earnestly in many places in the work he was so signally called to do. The good he did who can tell? He has gone, but his deeds remain.

Up to the year 1842 the Hebronville church continued to have Congregational ministers. In the spring of that year it became matter of conviction to the members that there were good and sufficient reasons for modifying and changing their creed. It was therefore voted to give up the creed of Congregationalism as a test of church membership and to adopt a covenant which should embrace all Christians without regard to sect. They thus became "an independent Church of Christ," denominating themselves "The Hebron Church, of Hebronville, Massachusetts." Their principles and beliefs are such as are held by other sects, though they perhaps give wider scope to individual beliefs or the expression of them than some others. They hold each church wholly independent and recognize no synod, presbytery, or conference; that is, they "recognize no earthly authority in church or state" over them, but they "believe on Christ's authority"; they have "the right and duty of self-government under the law of Jesus Christ," and they "recognize the same right in every local Christian church."

The following is a list of the successive pastors from the formation of the church to the present time: —

Rev. Thomas Williams,	Rev. J. C. Seagraves,
Rev. Charles Simmons,	Rev. Gardner Clarke,
Rev. William H. Hayward,	Rev. Reuben Allen,
Rev. John W. Caldwell,	Rev. Solomon P. Snow,
Rev. Joshua A. Stetson,	Rev. Samuel Heath,
Rev. Junia S. Mowry,	Rev. William B. Heath,
Rev. George W. Wallace,	Rev. John Q. Adams.

The present pastor is Rev. Albert F. Remington, who commenced his labors April 1, 1875.[1]

The original building was sold and removed in 1870, and the new church erected in the same year was wholly in Seekonk. This edifice was burned down in 1875, and another built and dedicated on August 6 of the same year. The membership is not far from one hundred, and the church has a prosperous Sunday-school.

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[1] Mr. Remington died September 7, 1888. His successor was the Rev. S. F. Grady. The present pastor is Rev. Joseph Forth (1893).

BRIGGSVILLE CHURCH.

October 2, 1777, a church was organized under the Free-Will Baptist order with thirty-one members. The church building is a few rods over the line of Rehoboth, and the original membership was about equally divided between that town and this. There was no settled pastor for three years, but at the end of that time Rev. James Sheldon, of Providence, took the charge of the church. He was ordained in 1780 and dismissed in 1792.

A time of "occasional supplies" followed, until in 1795 Rev. Jeremiah Irons was ordained and settled. He remained until 1799. The church received its name from him, it being known in Rehoboth as "The Irons Church." From the time of Mr. Irons' dismission until 1808, Elders William Northrop, Daniel Hix, and others supplied the pulpit. At that time Elder Samuel Northrop became pastor, but the length of his pastorate is not known. After him various "Elders" supplied the pulpit, some being active pastors, until 1836, when Rev. David Steere was ordained. Following him was Rev. John W. Colwell, ordained in 1841. His successor was Elder Joshua Stetson, who was ordained in 1845. Elder Gardner Clarke succeeded him and was acting pastor from 1846 till 1853.

Mr. Clarke was born at Highgate, Vt., August 21, 1812. He spent his childhood and youth at Bradford, that State, and he received a good academical education. He was ordained at Cabot, Vt., in 1843. His labors among the people of the Briggsville congregation were very successful. At the time of his resignation of the charge the church numbered seventy-five members, a gain of nearly or quite a half during his stay. In 1837 Mr. Clarke married Jane R. Deming, of Wethersfield, Conn., by whom he had three daughters. He still resides in this town. He has had no particular charge for many years, but has preached more or less. In years past he frequently took charge of the services in the Second Congregational Church and sometimes on only a moment's notice. He has long been familiarly known to people in all parts of our town, both as a clergyman, a citizen, and a much-respected man. He is among the few still remaining of the passing generation.[1]

His successor over the Briggsville church was Elder Lowell Parker. Elders George W. Wallace and John Pratt and Elder Handy followed, and after them for a number of years the pulpit was supplied by students from Brown University. In the year 1875 the church had become greatly reduced and numbered only seven active members. During 1881–82 Rev. Mr. Clarke preached to the people for the second time "by the united request of the community."

The former members of the previous or passing generation are mostly dead; some few have united with other churches, and what was once a flour-

[1] Mr. Clarke died July 4, 1893. Had he lived a few weeks longer he would have attained the age it was his great desire to reach, that of eighty years.

ishing little church is now nearly or quite extinct. For some years the only service held has been one each Sunday, under the charge of the Methodist denomination.

THE CENTENARY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

On November 26, 1865, Rev. D. H. Ela, a Methodist minister from Pawtucket, R. I., assisted by Mr. J. Davis, a layman from the same place, held the first meeting, from which the society started, in Union Hall, East Attleborough. Rev. Mr. Ela preached at the morning service, held at half-past ten, and Rev. J. J. Lansing at the afternoon service, held at half-past two o'clock in the same place, and Mr. Ela again in the evening. Thus Methodism began in this town, and meetings continued to be held during the following winter and previous to the organization of the church. December 10, 1865, the Sunday-school was organized, with forty members. J. Davis was superintendent; Ezra Arnold, assistant superintendent; Freeman Robbins, librarian: and William B. Hammond, secretary. The first class meeting was held on December 16, 1865, with thirteen persons present.

The church was organized March 10, 1866, by Rev. D. H. Ela, and the following were the original members: Ezra Arnold, Anna Arnold, Delia A. Arnold, Harriet A. Fuller, Delia R. Pierce, Edward D. Parmenter, Emily M. Parmenter, Mary A. Stone, Eliza A. Clark, Howard Drake, Augusta Drake, and Ellen M. Hammond. At a conference held at Bristol, R. I., March 23, 1866, the first pastor was appointed.

The original membership was composed chiefly of those who were professors of Methodism and therefore had no church home in town until this time, and a very small number came from the Second Congregational Church. This church was organized under the name of "The Davis Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church," but subsequently for good and sufficient reasons the word Davis was dropped from the name and is not used by the church at all now. The word "centenary" was taken because the church was formed just a century from the time Methodism was started in this country. In the year 1766 a few persons who had belonged to "the Wesleyan connection" in England formed themselves into a society. This was done in a carpenter's shop on Barrack Street, in New York, near the site of the present city hall. This was the small beginning of this Protestant denomination, now the largest in the land.

The first building, on the site of the present one on North Main Street, was commenced in 1866, ground being broken in the autumn of that year, and the cornerstone being laid on October 26. The vestry was occupied for the first time on the first Sunday in June, 1867, and the completed church building was dedicated February 23, 1869. The sermon upon that occasion was preached by Rev. Mark Trafton. This building was erected at a cost of $17,000, $7,000 only of which was provided for, leaving a debt

upon the society of $10,000. At the end of four years, in 1873, one half of that large debt had been raised, and the other half in 1883. In November of that year this happy event was "celebrated with a grand jubilee," a reunion of all the former pastors of the church and many friends, and the occasion was one of great thankfulness and rejoicing.

On Sunday morning, December 23, 1883, within a month of the time the debt had been lifted, the church was totally destroyed by fire. A fine new organ had just been placed in the building at a cost of $1,700, and this was also burned. The Roman Catholics of the East village, then worshiping in Union Hall, on the very day of the fire offered the use of that room to the unfortunate congregation for certain hours of the day; the Second Congregational Church made a similar offer, and Mr. J. M. Bates a room in one of his jewelry shops. This last offer was accepted, and the society continued to worship there until the vestry of the new church was ready for occupancy. The room was occupied for nearly a year, and Mr. Bates generously declined to accept any remuneration for its use.

"The ashes were not cold on the site of the burned edifice, before measures were taken for erecting a new church building." Early in the spring following the fire work was commenced, and December 1, 1884, the vestry was completed and occupied. About three months later the entire church was finished, and was dedicated in March, 1885. It is a much handsomer and more commodious building than the first one and more convenient and complete in its arrangements. It contains audience room, vestry, infant Sabbath-school room, and ladies' parlor on the ground floor, and a large kitchen, dining-room, and various small rooms in the basement. This building cost nearly $20,000, and the fund in the hands of the society at the commencement was $12,000, the amount of the insurance on the old building.

Though the people of this church have had to labor under many discouragements in their very midst and to make many sacrifices to secure their present substantial and attractive house of worship, they have not forgotten to manifest the true spirit of Methodism by doing outside missionary work. In May, 1873, Rev. E. D. Hall, with Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Luther and Mr. and Mrs. F. Robbins, formed a mission at Chartley, in Norton. A Sunday-school was established, and a church very soon organized, consisting at first of nine members. A chapel costing $1,500 was built and dedicated on February 3, 1876, free of debt. The present membership of this little church is about thirty, with a congregation of sixty or seventy.

The following is a list of the pastors of the Centenary Methodist Church, with the dates of their appointments: —

Rev. Alexander Anderson	1866–68	Rev. John W. Willett	1877–78
Rev. Henry D. Robinson	1869–70	Rev. A. W. Seavey	1879
Rev. W. H. Starr	1871–72	Rev. George W. Ballou	1880–81
Rev. E. D. Hall	1873–74	Rev. J. A. L. Rich	1882–84
Rev. John C. Gowan	1875–76	Rev. Warren A. Luce	1885–87

Rev. Walter Ela is the present pastor. He commenced his labors in this town in April, 1887.[1]

In the little more than twenty years of its existence, this church has increased from twelve or fifteen members to nearly if not quite two hundred and fifty. Its Sunday-school is a very large and flourishing one. It has upon its roll about three hundred and fifty names, and the average attendance is two hundred and fifty.

THE HEBRONVILLE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church was organized April 4, 1875, in Hebron Hall, where it continued to worship for several years. In 1881 the pastor in charge seemed especially to recognize "the necessity of a new church edifice, and early in the year set himself at work to secure it." In a short time quite a sum of money was subscribed and work commenced, and the cornerstone was laid in October of the same year. It required strenuous exertions on the part both of pastors and people to complete the church building, which was erected at a cost of about $12,000. They were however very successful and on April 5, 1883, the pretty edifice was dedicated, "virtually free from debt."

This church has had nine pastors, only one of them remaining three years. At the time of its formation there were twenty-seven members, and at present there are about fifty. The society holds regular services in Dodgeville as well as in Hebronville and has a Sabbath-school in both places, each numbering over a hundred scholars.

The first pastor, in 1875, was Rev. John Q. Adams, who remained but one year. In 1876 Rev. J. H. Sherman was appointed, and he continued three years. Rev. Robert Clark, 1879; Rev. George W. Wright, 1880; Rev. Charles S. Neetler, 1881; Rev. Eben Tirrell, 1882; Rev. S. M. Beale, 1883; Rev. J. Q. Adams, 1884. Rev. Charles W. Hinckley was the pastor in 1887. [The present pastor (1893) is Rev. W. B. Heath.]

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church was established about 1871, and in that year land was purchased of Dr. J. M. Solomon on the "plain" between the Boston and Providence and the Attleborough Branch railroads. The committee of the church at that time were Isaac R. Johnson, John Williams, and Israel Jackson. The first building was a small house purchased by the society. It stood where Murray Church now stands and was used by Mr. Staples as a shop. This building was burned down. Since that time some additional land has been purchased and a new church edifice erected, larger and more convenient than the former. The entire property is valued at $2,500.

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[1] Rev. A. McCord was the successor of Mr. Ela, assuming the pastorate in the spring of 1889. To him succeeded the Rev. Richard Povey, and to him the present pastor, Rev. George E. Brightman. During this year, 1898, a parsonage has been built on Sanford Street, just in the rear of the church.

This church belongs to the New England Conference of African Churches. The original number of members was about twelve; the present number is sixty-six. There is a Sunday-school connected with the church, which numbers over fifty scholars. The pastors are as follows: Rev. R. H. G. Dyson, Rev. James H. Anderson, Rev. Charles C. Ringold, whose terms extended over two years each. Rev. Daniel Bradley, Rev. Robert Peaco, Rev. E. George Biddle, whose terms continued for three years each. Rev. George H. Simmons came here June 14, 1886, and remained about a year. In 1887 Rev. M. A. Bradley was appointed pastor. [Rev. C. D. Hazel is the present pastor, 1893.]

GRACE CHURCH. EPISCOPALIAN.

The first service in town under the auspices of the Protestant Episcopal Church was held at North Attleborough about September 1, 1858. This service was "by request, about two hundred being present." The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Julius S. Townsend. He had been rector of Trinity Church, Pawtucket (then in Massachusetts). Regular services were held in both the North and East villages, in the latter place in Union Hall in the evening; and on March 30, 1859, "a parish was duly organized under the name of Grace Church," with Mr. Townsend for its rector. The double services were continued, and it was the rector's desire and plan to have a church building in both of the above named villages. He labored very earnestly and faithfully for a year and a half, but was then compelled to resign the work because of his ill-health. This was in March, 1860.

During the four succeeding months the services were conducted by several different clergymen, and then Rev. Edward Cowley became rector. He resigned at the end of a year. While he was in town the services were held at the Falls instead of at North Attleborough. From this time — about June, 1861 — until March, 1864, services were discontinued. Then for three months Mr. (now Rev.) Samuel H. Webb took charge at the Falls as lay reader.

In June, 1864, Rev. A. C. Patterson, "a missionary at large," became rector, and while he had charge the land upon which the church is built was purchased. Up to this time services had been held in four different places in town; namely, Union Hall, East Attleborough; Union and Odd Fellows halls, North Attleborough; and at the Falls schoolhouse. Mr. Patterson's rectorship was a short one and closed by his resignation, and from the time he left town until 1871 the interest in the work of this denomination seemed to subside. Occasional efforts were made to resume services, but they were unsuccessful.

In 1871, however, "a united and decided effort was made to revive the parish." A subscription paper was started to raise funds for building a church, and $2,000 were pledged. Services, too, were held at Mr. W. D. Whiting's and in the Free Evangelical Church. In September of that year

Rev. J. S. Beers became the rector, and regular services were resumed and held in Templars Hall. October 17 the ground was broken for the church edifice. A few months later Mr. Beers commenced soliciting aid in Boston, in which work he was very successful, and the cornerstone was laid June 14, 1872. This ceremony was performed by the Grand Masonic Lodge of this State, and the religious services were conducted by the Grand Chaplain, Rev. E. M. P. Wells, D.D., of Boston.

Meanwhile an additional lot of land had been purchased, and two months after the laying of the cornerstone the rectory was commenced. It was finished in June, 1873. The church was finished and opened for its first service March 12, 1873. It has sittings for two hundred and eighty-four people and is valued at $11,000. The rectory is valued at $4,500. These figures show that in a very few years a large amount of work was successfully done by this small parish. The church was not consecrated until over a year after its completion, for in the Episcopal denomination no church edifice can be consecrated until it is entirely free from debt, a provision in the church polity that all denominations might well adopt.

The number of members in the church in 1860 was eleven; when the reorganization took place there were eighteen; and the present number is one hundred. There are more than a hundred families connected with the parish. The Sunday-school was reorganized October 1, 1871, and it now numbers one hundred and thirty, with an average attendance of about ninety.

The consecration occurred on June 18, 1874, and there were special services during two days. A large number of the clergy from Boston, Providence, Taunton, and many other places were in attendance. The consecration sermon was preached by the Rev. Phillips Brooks, of Trinity Church, Boston.

Grace Church has had four rectors since its reorganization. Rev. J. S. Beers was the first of these. He was born in Fairfield County, Conn., and it was not until he had attained the age of twenty-one that he decided to enter the ministry. Previous to that time he had for some years been employed in some business house in Bridgeport, Conn., and it was there, doubtless, that he formed the habits and gained the knowledge which enabled him to manage successfully the business and financial matters of the churches over which he was subsequently placed. The fact that he had reached his majority before beginning the special preparations for his lifework showed that he had weighed the matter carefully in his own mind before making his decision and that he thoroughly understood its purport and requirements. As has been said, he acted from judgment, not impulse, and devoted himself thoroughly and entirely to his work, laboring for the temporal good of his charges and their higher spiritual good with equal zeal and fidelity.

Mr. Beers was a man of great energy, for, notwithstanding his lack of early education and mental training, he graduated from the Episcopal Theo-

logical Seminary in Philadelphia "with an honorable standing." He accomplished a great work in this town in the building of the church and rectory and in doing much toward extinguishing the debt of the parish. He resigned in the autum of 1876 and removed to Towanda, Penn. He remained there until 1885, when he received the appointment of general missionary of the Episcopal Church in this State. After turning his attention to books he became quite a student and found recognition as a scholar of ability, for in 1886 Trinity College conferred the degree of Master of Arts upon him. After his appointment as a missionary he took up his residence at Natick, this State, and continued there until he died in November, 1886, at the end of a life not long in years, for he was but fifty, but complete in much work well done. One says of him: "His consecration to the Christian ministry, thorough knowledge of business methods, and indomitable energy, gave him success in this field of labor," that of a missionary.

Rev. Frederick A. Fiske was the rector who succeeded Mr. Beers. He was the son of Rev. Elisha and Margaret Shepard Fiske, of Wrentham, where he was born April 15, 1816. He was fitted for college at the well-known Day's Academy in that town and graduated at Amherst College in 1836. After this he took the full course at Yale Theological Seminary and then at once entered upon ministerial work. He was a Congregational minister for nearly or quite twenty years and settled in some pastorate during the greater part of that time. For some three or four years previous to 1865 he had a private school for boys in Newton, this State. He had been a teacher between the time of his graduation from college and his entering the theological school, and he gained a wide reputation as a successful educator.

The results of a severe illness compelling him to seek the benefits of a milder climate, he accepted the position of superintendent of education in North Carolina in 1865. He continued in this office for three years and filled it most acceptably. He was, however, always possessed with a strong desire to return to New England and resume the duties of the ministry there, counting the days spent in that work the pleasantest of his life; and therefore in 1868 he resigned his position at the south and returned to the north. It was about two years subsequent to this time that he entered the Episcopal Church. He became rector of Trinity Church in Great Barrington, this State, and later of St. Paul's in Brookfield, Conn., and from the latter place came to this town in 1876. After two years' labor in and for this church, death called him, for his work was done.

The words of others most fitly describe the character and life of this singularly devoted man. Says the Attleborough Chronicle: "Mr. Fiske was a man of scholarly attainments, irreproachable character, genial, social, and kind in all his intercourse with the church and world. His rectorship among us has been abundantly blessed, and his departure so unexpected, has elicited the most profound grief and heartfelt sympathy. Bishop Paddock,

at the funeral services, made a feeling tribute to the departed, speaking of the great loss all had sustained, — of his unselfish devotion to his work and people. He loved to minister as one that serveth. It was his highest honor, the basis of his life. His service has been very faithful. Wherever his work, that work was honorably performed and his reward was with God."

In the convention address delivered in May, 1879, is the following notice, a beautiful tribute from the pen of Bishop Paddock: "In the modest rectory, that, with the Church at its side, crowns the little knoll of an ample lot in a pretty village of Bristol County, one of our best rural pastors lay down to die soon after he had given God thanks for the good example of dear Dr. Wells, (a loved city missionary of the Episcopal Church in Boston.) This man, coming to his parish two years before, had found the wise and far-sighted work and outlays of his valued predecessor burdened with such honest, but partially unexpected indebtedness as changed times have brought upon many of the parishes all over the land. The time came, last autumn, when about $2,000 of this indebtedness *must be raised*, to avert disaster. He did not create the obligation; but it was Christ's cross that lay right athwart his path, to remove it. First letting it cost *himself* more, perhaps, han he would expect of any one else, he then roused the hearts of all, even to the children, of his flock, and they all responded nobly. Then strengthened, as he supposed, in his gentleness and modesty, by a statement and commendation from his Bishop, he went from door to door in Boston, to let others bear the burden with him, and so fulfill the law of Christ. From a few he received refusals which pained him, from a few good advice against parishes getting into debt, from others modest offerings towards his longed for getting out of debt and saving a valuable property. Twice he broke in his weary rounds; but at last he succeeded and went home with the church's property saved, and his life given for it. After a few weeks of exhaustion and suffering, the Rev. Frederick Augustus Fiske, Rector of Grace Church, North Attleborough, died Dec. 15, 1878, and was buried by myself and other brethren amidst a town full of mourners. He was a man of manly and strong piety, clear and happy in his convictions, and of willing and unwearying labor."

January 5, 1869, Mr. Fiske married Avlin W. Woods, a granddaughter of the Rev. Dr. Leonard Woods, of Andover, one of the founders of the theological seminary in that place. She survives him, and one son by a previous marriage, Mr. F. E. Fiske, of Taunton.

The next rector of this church was. Rev. George R. Wheelock, who remained but one year. He came in September, 1879, and resigned in September, 1880.

The church was without a rector until January 23, 1881, at which time the Rev. George E. Osgood, the present rector, assumed its charge. He was born in Boston June 6, 1854. He was educated at the Waltham High

School and under private instruction for two years, ending with a four years' course at the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge. He then became assistant for Dr. William R. Huntington, then rector of All Saints' Church at Worcester, now of Grace Church, New York City. He was at the same time rector of St. Matthew's Church at South Worcester. He remained in these positions for two years and a half, when he came to this town.

October 2, 1880, Mr. Osgood married Helen F. Read, of Hamden, Maine. They have two children, Phillips E. and Edith E. Osgood.

Up to the autumn of 1887 there was a debt upon the rectory amounting to about $2,900. During that season the necessary sum was raised by subscription among the people of the parish, and the entire church property thus wholly freed from obligations. The church is constantly increasing in prosperity.

There is one memorial window in the church, placed there in memory of Miss Adeline Bowers, who was born November 23, 1799, and died October 18, 1868.[1]

THE FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

The beginning of this church dates back to 1843–44. At that time "a body of earnest christian workers" left the Baptist Church because they had embraced the doctrines of Millerism. They built a chapel at Plainville, where they worshiped for some time. April 30, 1854, they organized themselves into this church, their basis of organization being "The Doctrines on which Evangelical denominations are agreed," their creed and practice being that of open communion Baptists. Naturally the accepted rule of admission to membership in this church is baptism by immersion, but members of other churches are admitted who have not been so baptized; hence doubtless their peculiar name.

During the first year there was no regular pastor, the pulpit being supplied by twelve different ministers. On March 30, 1859, Rev. Cyrus Cunningham became the settled pastor, and from that time the church received recognition from the other churches in town and elsewhere. At the organization there were twenty-four members, and at this time there were seventy.

Mr. Cunningham was born in Newton, this State. He received a high school education and made his preparations for the ministry with a clergyman in Salem. This was his second pastorate, the previous one having been in Westborough, this State, where he remained for four years. His wife was Mary Daggett, and while they resided in this town they had one son, who is a Baptist clergyman. Mr. Cunningham remained here seven years, and

[1] In the autumn of 1891 a new building on the church lot was begun, and finished in the spring of 1892. The second floor is for the use of the Sunday-school, and the first floor contains parlor, dining-room, kitchen, etc. Its cost, including furnishings, was about $6,000. It is called the Parish House.

during that time the church services were conducted in Barden's Hall. He is now pastor of the "Shawmut Avenue Messias Church" in Boston.

Rev. John A. Heagy was the succeeding pastor. During his stay the church edifice was built. It was commenced in 1867, but not entirely completed for three years. The lecture room was finished and used for fully two years before the entire building was completed. The dedication occurred February 24, 1870.

The third pastor was Rev. G. H. Childs, who remained here only two years, from 1870 till 1872. In the latter year Rev. H. Canfield accepted the charge. At that time the church had one hundred and thirty members and the Sunday-school one hundred and fifty.

To Mr. Canfield succeeded Rev. John Wood, who remained several years. He was much interested in all public town matters, educational work, etc. During the summer or fall of 1885 he resigned and with his family went to California the ensuing winter. In October, 1886, Dr. E. M. Levy became pastor, but he remained only about a year, when he resigned. Some time after this Rev. W. L. Lockwood received a call from the church after having supplied the pulpit for a while.

The church edifice in this society was erected at a cost of from $8,000 to $10,000, and repairs to the amount of some $7,000 have also been made. This entire sum has been paid. In 1883 the parsonage at the rear of the church was built. The present membership is over two hundred, and the Sunday-school, formed very soon after the organization of the church, has a membership of probably between one hundred and fifty and two hundred.[1]

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The people of Attleborough Falls were for many years compelled to go either to North Attleborough or Oldtown for public worship. The need of a church organization and a church building had long been felt. Attempts were from time to time made to have some permanent organization, and a clergyman once came to town and labored for about a year, and then the attempt fell through from opposing obstacles which arose. Finally in March, 1866, a Sabbath-school was established with Welcome Aldrich as superintendent. The late Job Savery took a great interest in this work and did much to advance it. The school held its sessions in the basement of the schoolhouse in the village, where other religious services were also held. These latter were conducted in turn by various pastors of different denominations in town. As this arrangement did not prove wholly to meet the demands of the surrounding community a canvass was made and sufficient money subscribed to insure a regular Sabbath supply of preachers. The committee having this matter in charge was composed of representatives

[1] 1888. Present pastor, Rev. A. R. Paull.

from several denominations, each one of which was to have a specified portion of the year for the setting forth of its "particular views."

This plan at first promised great results, but it failed completely before the end of a single year. The previous arrangement was again adopted, but with little success, and every prospect looked very discouraging. A newly settled pastor in another part of the town had his attention called to the then state of affairs and made efforts to renew the enterprise. Not much could be done at once, but the Massachusetts Home Missionary Society had begun to look after the spiritual needs and interests of this community, and at the meeting of the Taunton Conference held in October, 1873, at North Middleborough, this matter was presented to the members present, and a day was appointed for the conference committee to visit the town and look over the ground. This was done with the result that the Home Missionary Society was instructed to send a permanent preacher to this community as soon as it could find the right man.

Among the different ones sent was a young man under appointment as a foreign missionary, and it was at once decided that he was "the one looked for," and he was urged to remain until he should be called to his foreign service. George H. Tilton's first Sabbath at the Falls was January 4, 1874. He is the son of William Wells and Sarah Ann (Morrill) Tilton and was born in Nashua, N. H., January 31, 1845. He lived in Concord and Hopkinton, that State, while a child, his parents having removed to those places. He attended district schools, the Contoocook and Hopkinton academies, and for a term the Rumford Grammar School at Concord, under a very faithful teacher, Mr. James W. Webster. He then entered Williston Seminary, at Easthampton, this State, where he graduated in 1866, ready for college. He graduated at Amherst College in 1870 and at Andover Theological Seminary in 1873, and on June 4 of that year he was ordained at Hopkinton, N. H. He then took a course of medical instruction in New York City, having his missionary work in view. Soon after finishing that course he came to this town, "was cordially welcomed by the people, and was promptly offered $600 to come and preach for them six months," and at the end of that time was given a renewal of the offer for an indefinite period. Mr. Tilton took hold of the work before him in earnest and very soon found there was sufficient interest in the community to justify the formation of a church, which was done. He continued here, working with and for this people until the new church building was completed. He resigned in May, 1875.

He preached for fully a year and a half after this in Wolfborough, N. H., marked success following his labors there. He had meanwhile been obliged to relinquish his former plan of becoming a foreign missionary, and as a result of overwork he was compelled to resign all active work for some months at this period. He commenced preaching in the Congregational Church in Rehoboth village in October, 1877, and took up his residence there

January 1, 1878. He continued to preach there for five years and on November 2, 1882, was regularly installed as pastor. On June 6, 1876, he was married to Ella Minerva, a daughter of Thomas and Minerva Wheaton (Freeman) Mann, of this town. They have three children.

Mr. Tilton still continues in this pastorate, a pleasant and successful one.[1] He was the projector of the enterprise which has given to the town of Rehoboth its beautiful "Memorial Hall," and to his earnest efforts the satisfactory result of the enterprise is very largely due. It is pleasant to praise the generosity of those who contributed their money so liberally in this cause and to record the fact that Mr. Tilton's labors have been appreciated. Entirely without his knowledge friends procured an excellent portrait of him, and upon the day of the dedication of Goff Memorial Hall this was publicly presented to him with well-deserved words of praise and with the request that he would permit it to remain in the hall, that future generations may see "the good man" who so faithfully labored for their good in promoting the interests of the town.

Rehoboth and old Attleborough were so long and so closely allied that what interests the one town has a more than common interest for the other, and the old Orthodox church of the older town and the new Orthodox church of the younger town have a special tie between, in that both have been benefited by the labors of the same earnest and faithful minister.

As was stated, soon after Mr. Tilton commenced his work here, sufficient interest was manifested to warrant proceeding in the movement towards a church organization. A meeting was held March 19, 1874, and a Congregational church was formed, calling itself the Central Congregational Church of Attleborough. The first deacons elected were Edwin Shepardson and Welcome Aldrich, the first treasurer William Fisher, and the clerk H. N. Daggett. A council for the recognition of the new church was held in Agricultural Hall on the thirty-first of the same month, Dr. Blake preaching the sermon. Meetings continued to be held in the schoolroom, but the place was entirely inadequate to the wants of the congregation, and simultaneously with the formation of the church a movement in the direction of a building was made.

This enterprise, once started, was "pushed forward with great energy, both by the pastor and H. N. Daggett, and some other stirring men of the village." It took just five weeks from the formal recognition of the formation of the church for these energetic men to perfect their arrangements and commence the contemplated work of building. The old burying-ground was the site selected for the edifice, and it was necessary to remove some of the bodies interred there. It was with considerable difficulty in some cases that the

[1] In 1891 Mr. Tilton resigned his pastorate in Rehoboth, preaching his last sermon to his people there on November 28 of that year. He went to Lancaster, N. H., where he still is located.

consent of the relatives was obtained, but all such obstacles were finally overcome. The building committee were Handel N. Daggett, John F. Sturdy, and Edwin Whitney. They began work on May 5, 1874, and on June 16 the cornerstone was laid. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Tilton, made the historical remarks, and Rev. J. J. Woolley, of Pawtucket, delivered the address upon that occasion. The exercises were participated in by Rev. Samuel Bell, Rev. John Whitehill, Rev. H. Canfield, of this town, and Rev. Dr. Blodgett, of Pawtucket. In the cornerstone were placed the names of the members of the church, a copy of its creed and covenant, a copy of the order of exercises of the day, two copies of the *Chronicle* containing editorials on the establishment of the church, specimens of scrip and specie, and the business card of Mr. J. F. Sturdy. The stone was laid in its place by Mr. Daggett.

The work of building went rapidly forward under the efficient supervision of the committee. Mr. Daggett arranged with much forethought and had the masons, carpenters, and painters on hand when their special work was ready for them, "and they did not leave it till it was done." Early in December, 1874, services were held in the vestry, and "by the untiring efforts of the committee the structure was completed in less than a year." The building is of wood, with a brick basement, is about forty-one by sixty feet in measurement, and of Gothic design, with a spire whose top is one hundred feet from the ground. The clock was the gift of the village and cost $500, and the bell was presented by Mr. John F. Sturdy. The lecture room will seat about three hundred people; there is also a library room and a kitchen department with all necessary arrangements. The audience room above seats about four hundred.

It is forty-four feet high to the peak of the roof and is well finished and furnished. It has eight side windows of colored glass and three rose windows, the largest and smallest in the front end, and the other opposite, over the chancel. The chancel contains the pulpit and choir seats, with the organ at the right or west side, and there is a small gallery at the opposite end of the church. At the left of the chancel is a tablet containing several texts of Scripture, and the date of the organization of the church, the laying of the corner-stone, and the names of the several pastors. This church cost between $16,000 and $18,000. The largest contributors were H. N. Daggett, J. F. Sturdy, and the late Willard Robinson; and several others among the business men of the village were very liberal in their donations. The ladies of the congregation also did their full share of the work. The fruits of one young lady's industry purchased the beautiful communion service; "a group of young ladies" gave an antiquarian supper and raised $100 for settees and organ for the vestry; and the older ladies by a series of fairs raised $500 towards furnishing the church. The work was a great one to accomplish in so short time, for exactly one year by date from the day the ground was broken, on May 5, 1875, the completed church building was dedicated.

There was a large congregation present on that occasion, and several clergymen of prominence took part in the exercises. Rev. S. M. Newman, Rev. H. B. Hooker, D.D., Rev. William Barrows, D.D., and Rev. M. Blake, D.D., among them. Rev. Mr. Bell, then pastor of the Second Congregational Church, made an historical address, and the dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. M. Manning, D.D., of Boston, from 1 Kings 8:27. Fine music was rendered by musicians from Providence, and a dedication hymn composed by Mrs. L. B. Sweet was sung by the congregation. This was the closing event of Mr. Tilton's pastorate, and his labors here terminated at that time, greatly to the regret of the people of the church and the community.

The next minister in charge was Rev. F. E. Marsten,[1] and he was followed by Rev. F. D. Kelsey, their pastorates together covering a period of five years.

In August, 1880, Rev. George O. Jenness commenced his labors here. He was born in Methuen, this State, April 14, 1837. He was educated partly at Atkinson Academy in New Hampshire and at the Baptist College in Richmond, Va. He pursued his theological studies with Rev. Ebenezer W. Bullard, of Hampstead, N. H., now of Stockbridge, this State. He was ordained in 1869 and commenced preaching in Virginia. Subsequently he modified some of his views and became a Congregationalist and had his first pastorate as such at Wakefield, N. H. While there he accepted the call to this church. Mr. Jenness was married January 13, 1872, to Mary A. Merrill, of Hampstead, N. H. They have two children living, Annie M. and Manora.

The Central Church organized with twenty-four members and at the present time it has sixty-two and a congregation averaging about one hundred. The Sunday-school, organized in March, 1866, has upon its roll one hundred and fifty names and an average attendance of ninety.[2]

MURRAY UNIVERSALIST CHURCH.

The first attempts made by this denomination to establish religious services in East Attleborough were not far from 1820, or during the pastorate of the Rev. Richard Carrique over the First Universalist society in Oldtown. There was, however, at that time great opposition manifested against these attempts by some of the leading Congregationalists of that part of the town, who were very decidedly opposed to the doctrines of Universalism. How long the meetings continued is not known, but it is certain that no permanent foothold was gained at that time, and that no further efforts were made for

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[1] In June, 1877, Mr. Marsten married Ida M. Freeman, daughter of the late Joseph J. Freeman, of Attleborough Falls. The ceremony took place in the church and was performed by Rev. Mr. Kelsey, his successor. Mr. Marsten is now settled in Columbus, Ohio, where he is pastor of a large Presbyterian church.

[2] Mr. Jenness' successor was Rev. Walter T. Taylor. The present pastor (1893) is Rev. J. H. McLaren.

nearly or quite half a century. There were then probably very few of this denomination in the East village, but, as with the succeeding years population increased, people of this faith in larger numbers became residents, and some twelve or fifteen years ago they were numerous enough to think of having a church and parish of their own.

In the initial work no one was more earnest than the late Charles E. Hayward. The first decisive public step was taken on June 19, 1875, when the organization of Murray Universalist Parish took place. The services were held in Union Hall from this time until December 16 of the same year, when Murray Chapel, the upper part of the late Edwin J. Horton's building on North Main Street, was dedicated to the purposes of religious worship. Services continued to be held there for nearly ten years. The society was incorporated May 11, 1881, as Murray Universalist Society. The name was given in honor of Rev. John Murray, the founder of the denomination in this country. He came from England in 1770, and one says: "The circumstances under which he landed at Good Luck, New Jersey, and preached in the old Potter Meeting-house, which Thomas Potter had built in the faith that 'God would send a preacher,' read like a romance. He was the John Wesley of Universalism."

The first pastor of Murray Church was Rev. Franklin C. Flint. He was here but a few months, from November, 1875, until his death, which occurred March 23, 1876. The second pastor was Rev. Alphonso E. White, who remained nearly two years, from September, 1876, to July, 1878.

In the September following, Rev. Thomas W. Illman received a call from the church, which was accepted, and he commenced his labors here October 1, 1878. He was born in Philadelphia, Penn., January 29, 1853; he went through the course of instruction in the public schools of his native city, graduating from the Central High School in July, 1870. The following year he entered the Divinity School of Tufts College, this State, took the regular four years' course there, and then remained another year for special study. He was settled first in Saugus, this State, at which place he was ordained September 12, 1876.

Soon after his settlement here the matter of a church building began to be talked of and special efforts in that direction to be made. Mr. Illman labored with great faith and earnestness in this cause, and he was ably seconded by all the people of his parish. In May, 1881, the society decided to buy a lot on South Main Street, just below its union with North Main Street, for $2,000. Efforts were redoubled and, before the pastor resigned, sufficient money was pledged to assure the desired result and to warrant beginning the work of building the edifice.

Mr. Illman resigned this pastorate May 1, 1884, to take charge of the Third Universalist Church of New York City, on West Eleventh Street. He remained there until June 1, 1887, when he accepted a call to Brattleborough,

Vt., to one of the largest churches in the denomination.[1] August 15, 1877, he married Maria Louise Poole, of Philadelphia, by whom he has had three daughters, Helen Louise, Adelaide Poole, and Florence Sweet Illman.

Rev. Hiram A. Philbrook succeeded Mr. Illman as pastor of this church. He was born in Bradford, Vt., in October, 1834. He was educated at Green Mountain Institute and finished with the divinity course at Tufts College. His first charge was at Calais, Maine, and he remained there thirteen years, with the exception of some time spent in the army, where he served as captain in the Eighth Maine Regiment. After leaving Calais he was over a church in Nashua, N. H., then in Pawtucket, R. I., and still later in Rockland, Maine. He commenced his ministerial labors in this town September 14, 1884, and a month later, on October 28, the ground was broken for the foundation of the new church building.

In 1858 Mr. Philbrook married Louisa King, of Claremont. N. H. They have two daughters. Laura Mary and Maria Philbrook. He resigned in 1888, to take charge of a church in Boston.

The cornerstone of the new church building was laid December 11. 1884, with appropriate ceremonies, and the vestry was completed and ready for occupancy in July, 1885. The remainder of the work was rapidly pushed forward, and the main audience room was finished and occupied for the first time on November 15, 1885. The building committee early appointed were J. Lyman Sweet, chairman, Rev. Mr. Illman (his place subsequently being occupied by Rev. Mr. Philbrook), W. R. Cobb, the late Charles E. Hayward, L. J. Lamb, and E. O. Richardson. Each and all of these gentlemen were most faithful and efficient, as the result testifies.

The church is of Queen Anne style and very pretty both in design and finish. The audience room has a seating capacity of three hundred and twenty-five, and the Sunday-school room below seats two hundred. There are also parlors, kitchen, etc., conveniently and appropriately arranged, according to the requirements of the present day. The pulpit furniture was presented to the society by Mr. Charles F. Lamb, of Waltham, a former parishioner of Mr. Philbrook, the communion table by Mr. N. J. Smith, and the chandelier by Mr. R. F. Simmons, of this town.

It was at first proposed to build a chapel only, at a cost of perhaps $5,000 or $6,000, but it was finally decided to have a church, though that meant a far larger outlay. The present building with the land has cost $16,000; and the end aimed at, a paid for church, has not been attained without great effort and even personal sacrifice on the part of many of the people. Large sums of money have been contributed by a few, notably by Mr. Hayward, Mr. Sweet, and Mr. Lamb, and many others have given of time and money proportionally perhaps as generously as they. Though a great work had been

[1] At the present time (1893) Mr. Illman is pastor of the Universalist church in Concord, N. H.

accomplished by his predecessor. Mr. Philbrook found much waiting to be done when he came to the parish, and he labored perseveringly with his people until the consummation was reached. Most wisely, it was decided not to dedicate the church till every dollar of the society's obligations was paid, and too much credit cannot be given to the ladies, who for two or three years worked unceasingly to cancel as much as possible of the debt which remained when the building was finished. Early in the year 1887 about $800 was still unpaid, and Mr. J. L. Sweet very generously offered to be responsible for $500 of that amount if the ladies would raise the remainder by a certain date. This by no means small task was accomplished, chiefly by a series of very pleasant entertainments, and the entire debt thus liquidated.

The dedication services were held May 11, 1887. They were participated in by many friends of the society from home and abroad and by several eminent clergymen. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Rev. E. H. Capen, D.D., president of Tufts College, and an address to the parish was given by Rev. Mr. Potter, then pastor of the First Universalist Church of this town. Rev. Dr. George H. Emerson, of Salem, Rev. W. A. Start, Mr. H. G. Dunham, of this town, a student in Tufts Divinity School, and the pastor also took part in the exercises, and the sermon was preached by Rev. Mr. Illman, the former pastor.

We cannot better close this sketch of Murray Church than by quoting a few sentences from Mr. Illman's discourse at its dedication. He says: "As one who was with you at the beginning of the building movement, and who has watched it with interest in all its stages, I would be qualified to speak of the sacrifice and generosity which this little temple represents. Every such movement reveals the souls of people; and I can bear testimony that free-hearted loyalty and devotion, in no stinted measure, have been shown to abide in the souls of the people of this church and of this town. I restrain myself. I cannot be amiss, however, to mention the name of Charles E. Hayward, as one whose wholesome liberality made this church possible, and whose spirit lingers near it, although, in life, he was not permitted to enter its doors for a single service. It is a monument to the devoted spirit and unselfish labors of many faithful men and women, both living and dead. Believing that to truly generous hearts, such as yours, a good work well done is itself praise enough, I will content myself with extending to you all most hearty congratulations that your labors have been crowned with success, and that you can offer to the service of God and His children's highest welfare so beautiful and so complete a gift, and offer it, too, free from every shadow of encumbrance." [1]

[1] The next pastor, Rev. Jabez Newton Emery, at the time he was called of Bellows Falls, Vt., came here in 1888, commencing his labors on the first Sabbath of September in that year. He left September 30, 1891, to accept a pastorate in Bridgeport, Conn. To him succeeded Rev. Daniel L. Fisher, who came in February, 1892, and left August 31, 1893. During his pastorate a parsonage was built by the society on County Street, he being the first to occupy it. October 1, 1893, the present pastor, Rev. A. Francis Walch, commenced his labors.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH (ROMAN CATHOLIC).

St. Mary's Parish dates back nearly forty years, to 1850, during which year it was organized by Rev. Joseph McNamee, of Pawtucket, R. I. There were very few Roman Catholics in the district at that time, but a sufficient sum of money to purchase a lot of land was raised by subscription. The only obtainable lot was the rocky spot on the main road between the Falls and North Attleborough, just west of the elevation called "Peck's Mountain." In 1852 Father McNamee died, and Rev. P. G. Delany, also of Pawtucket, had charge of the people of this faith in town for the following two years. His successor was the Rev. Philip Gillick, of Greenville, R. I. He continued his residence in that place, but he devoted the larger portion of his time to this parish, and under his administration more active work was commenced and much was accomplished.

Up to 1857 the religious services had been conducted in private houses or in Barden's Hall, but during that year a church was built on the site previously purchased. This was a plain, inexpensive structure, but it answered the actual needs of the people at that time and for some years. At the time the church was built Father Gillick took up his residence in North Attleborough, living in various places there and for a time even in the basement of the church, until finally he built himself a house by the side of the church. He did a great and arduous work, for, besides accomplishing much in this town, "he built or purchased places of worship in Franklin, Wrentham, Walpole. Foxboro', and Mansfield, all of which he attended to regularly until advancing years and increasing numbers of Catholics obliged him to seek the assistance of another priest." He had, in all, three assistants, the Rev. Fathers Conaty, Foley, and Ryan. In 1874, on account of his advanced age and feeble health, Father Gillick resigned "the post he had so long, so ably, and so well filled," giving it into the hands of the Right Rev. T. F. Hendricken, Bishop of Providence. It was in February, 1874, that Father Gillick ceased his active labors here, and he removed to the State of New York, where he died on the 10th of the following May.

He was immediately succeeded by the Rev. Edward J. Mongan, and his first assistants were Rev. Andrew Brady and Rev. P. F. Doyle. Father Mongan is still the incumbent of St. Mary's parish, and the present assistant is Rev. John T. Lynch (1887).[1] He has worked zealously and successfully during the fourteen years of his administration. A debt resting upon the church when he came here has been paid off, and the parish has been in a very prosperous condition. At the time he came here the church had far outgrown its accommodations, and in 1877 the present site and buildings

[1] Since the above was written Father Mongan's assistant has been removed. The work in Mansfield having so increased as to require a resident pastor, he ceased his labors there and confined himself to the requirements of his own special parish in North Attleborough.

were purchased. These were the old Tifft property on Washington Street, North Attleborough, the dwelling well known to the people of the town as the "Round house." This house is occupied as a residence by the officiating priests and the stone barn has been remodeled and converted into a place of worship. About $20,000 was the price of this property, and in two years from the time the church took possession it was entirely paid for. In addition the building fund for a new church edifice already amounts to $10,000.[1] There are from eight to nine hundred members of this church and parish, and the congregation at the regular services averages from six to seven hundred. The Sabbath-school numbers two hundred. There is here an insurance organization under the guardianship of the church, called the Catholic Forester's Association; this numbers about fifty members. Besides attending to his own parish, Father Mongan has charge of the services of his church at Mansfield [see note].

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AND PARISH.

In 1883 the portion of St. Mary's parish comprised in the east part of the town was set apart by Bishop Hendricken and organized by him as St. John's parish. For some time previous to this date, it having become more difficult for the people of the East village to attend church on account of the removal from the Falls to North Attleborough, Father Mongan had regularly celebrated mass in Dean's or Union Hall. The first pastor appointed over the new parish was the Rev. John J. O'Connell, then curate of the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Providence. He came January 6, 1883, and still remains in charge.

Services were continued in Union Hall up to December, 1883, but the people had for some time been desirous of having a more suitable place. At the time the parish was organized quite a sum of money had already been collected with that object in view, and work was at once commenced. Land was purchased on North Main Street of the family of the late F. D. Bliss, including the house standing thereon and now used as the priest's residence.

The cornerstone of the new edifice was laid September 17, 1883, the sermon being delivered by the Rev. J. C. Walsh, of the Holy Communion Church, Providence. Pastor and people were earnest and zealous and the work of building went rapidly and vigorously on toward completion. The church is one hundred and ten feet long, fifty feet wide, and built after the Gothic style. It is a handsome structure and makes as a whole a fine effect. The lofty spire is an especially noticeable feature, and the top of its surmounting cross reaches to the height of one hundred and thirty-eight and a half feet from the ground. The auditorium is of excellent proportions, finished and

[1] The new building has been commenced. The cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1889, and the work of construction is going on. It is estimated that it will cost $75,000, and it will be a large and handsome structure. The basement is occupied for worship, but the room above is not yet completed.

furnished well, the style of finish used in the roof being particularly pleasing. The colors used in the decoration are soft and agreeable to the eye, and the stained glass windows add much to the general effect of the entire room, which is harmonious and in good taste. The beautiful window over the high altar is the gift of Rev. James Murphy, of St. Teresa's Church, Providence, and represents the patron saint of this church. The side windows are also gifts from various members of the church. The high altar was presented by the congregation, and the side altars by friends of the parish. A large organ occupies the choir gallery, which is over the vestibule, and the only gallery in the church. The Sunday-school room or vestry, a large room, occupies the basement of the building. The church seats seven hundred people. The members number six hundred, and the average attendance at mass is four hundred. The Sunday-school numbers one hundred and twenty-five. The entire property is valued at $25,000.[1]

The dedication took place September 22, 1885, the Right Rev. Bishop Hendricken conducting the services, which were very imposing and impressive.

Father O'Connell has accomplished much since he entered upon the work of this parish, and he has not only endeared himself to his own people, but has gained the respect of the community by his courteous and friendly bearing towards those with whom he has in various ways, both public and private, come in contact.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

The energy of Father Mongan was not satisfied even when he had thoroughly established a church in the East village, and he turned his attention to another portion of the town. At least ten or twelve years ago he commenced holding services in Dodgeville. For many years a large proportion of the people residing in the villages of Dodgeville and Hebronville have been foreigners, they having almost entirely superseded natives in mill work. Very many of these inhabitants are French Canadians or of that extraction and were born and bred in the Roman Catholic faith. As their numbers increased they needed more and more attention and at length a church and pastor of their own.

We have not been able to ascertain the exact date, but about eight or ten years ago (1877–78) a church was built and called St. Stephen's. It stands on the road between the two villages and at no great distance from either.

The congregation numbers about six hundred, and there are three hundred and fifty communicants, fully two-thirds of whom are French Canadians and the remainder probably chiefly Irish. There are about eight marriages and thirty baptisms annually, and about thirty persons in the parish have taken the pledge of total abstinence.

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[1] A lot opposite the church was purchased by Mr. P. M. Carpenter, and a commodious and pretty rectory was built upon it, which was finished during 1891. The cost was some $6,000.

The pastor at present in charge is the Rev. Patrick S. McGee, formerly of Canada.

There have been various religious societies which have held meetings in town at different times, continuing in some instances for quite a long period and having considerable numbers of attendants. These meetings have been held in halls or small rooms hired for the purpose, none of the organizations having attained sufficient success to enable them to own buildings for themselves. Among these may be mentioned the Mission of Glad Tidings, in existence for quite a period and holding its regular services in a hall on North Main Street, Attleborough. Episcopal services were held for some time in the same village under the care of Rev. Mr. Osgood. Now the society called All Saints' Mission has a rector of its own, Rev. I. T. Bagnall. A Congregational church has recently been formed in North Attleborough, calling itself Trinity Congregational Church, of which the pastor is Rev. E. L. Warren.

About 1870 the American Millennial Association, of Providence, R. I., bought some land in the extreme southern portion of the town and every year since that time have held camp-meetings there for people of their peculiar beliefs. Among the prominent men connected with the association in various places and leaders in these meetings may be mentioned Elder Lemuel Osler, Father Shipley, as he was called, Rev. Cyrus Cunningham, from the West, J. Pierson, of Newburyport, this State, J. Orrock, Mr. Bundy, Josiah Litch, J. L. Litch, Robert Knowles, and a Mr. Stewart, of Franklin, Mass., who is treasurer of the association. Of the several leaders in organizing these camp-meetings, Elder Osler is the only one now living.

The grounds consist of a pretty grove lying on the south side of the road which runs from the road between Dodgeville and Hebronville to Briggsville, just east of the Boston and Providence railroad. The original purchase was five acres, since increased to ten. There are at the present time (1893) some sixty cottages on the grounds, and the place has come to be in a small way quite a summer resort. A keeper resides there all the year through, and the owners occupy their cottages during the summer months, certain trains stopping at the adjacent crossing to accommodate such of the gentlemen as do business in Providence.

The Adventists generally hold their camp-meeting some time during August, though it has been held as early as June and as late as September. Their services continue for ten days. There are representatives of associations from many parts of the country, some of the Middle and Western States, and from Canada, though the greater number are from New England.

For four years Methodists of the vicinity have held camp-meetings continuing for five days, and for two years the society of Christian Workers have had meetings which have continued for ten days. These services attract large numbers of people from the surrounding country in all directions.

CHAPTER XI.

SCHOOLS.

OUR New England pioneer settlers were in many respects like all others. They had first of all to fell the trees of the forests and to build for themselves habitations, then they had to subdue the land and compel it to furnish the means of subsistence; but the ideas of our forefathers went further and higher than simply to supply themselves with shelter and food. All those things they left behind them in abundance; but they came here to found free institutions, and their commonwealth must be built upon a basis both religious and intelligent.

At one of the first meetings of the proprietors of Rehoboth, or the "plantores of Seacunk," held probably within a few months of the settlement of that town, it was voted "that the meeting house shall stand in the midst of the town," and very early the schoolmaster's lot was set apart. This was usually near the meetinghouse lot. The church and the school stood side by side.

November 13, 1677, at a town meeting it was voted "that Daniel Smith should write to the young gentleman at Dorchester, to signify to him, that it was the town's desire that he would be pleased to come up and teach a school according to those former invitations that our Reverend Pastor made to him."

May 18, 1680, the town was notified by the selectmen that one Mr. Edward Howard had engaged to teach school, and his terms were "twenty pounds a year in country pay, and his diet, besides what the court doth allow in that case"; and the following year the selectmen were directed to "endeavor the utmost to re-engage Mr. Howard to keep the school another year." In December, 1683, the selectmen "did fully agree" with a Mr. Taylor to keep school for one year, his pay to be "£5, in money, £10. as money, and his diet."

In October, 1698, it was voted "that a school-master, as the law directs, should be attained," and when the selectmen had procured one they were to "agree with him, for his encouragement to keep school." At this time the schoolhouse had to be repaired "and made fit for to keep school in." There seems to be no mention of the date of its construction.

March 15, 1699, the selectmen made an agreement with Thomas Robinson, of this town, to keep a reading and writing school for the term of three months, "to begin the first or second week in April, at the farthest," and for his labor "he is to have three pounds, half in silver money, the one half of

it when he has kept half the term, and the other half when his quarter is expired: the last part of his pay in corn equivalent to money."

Up to this time it is conjectured that boys only had had the benefit of public instruction; but in December of this year, 1699, "the selectmen agreed with Mr. Robert Dickson to keep school in Rehoboth for six months," he engaging to do his utmost endeavor "to teach both sexes of boys and girls to read English, and write, and cast accounts. In consideration of said service, the said selectmen, in the town's behalf, do engage to pay him thirteen pounds, one half in silver money, and the other half in good merchantable boards, at the current and merchantable price; the boards to be delivered at the landing place, at Samuel Walker's and Sergeant Butterworth's pier."[1] "All these votes were in accordance with the law of 1647, providing for the taxing of the people of the towns for the support of free public schools, to which every child might have access, — the first legislative act in the world affording free public instruction, through a general taxation of all the people, to the children of all the people."

In 1708 the course of study was enlarged, the schoolmaster then "agreeing to instruct in reading, writing, grammar, and arithmetic." Early in the year 1712 it was "voted to raise thirty pounds annually, for the support of schools." One "neighborhood" was to have ten pounds, and "be obliged to maintain an English school," and other portions of the town were to have "the remaining twenty pounds, and be obliged to maintain a grammar school."

Up to this time there is no mention of separate schools for Attleborough; therefore those of our town, if indeed there were any, must have been identified with or included in those of Rehoboth. The first records found on our books are for 1716, over twenty years after the incorporation of the town. On March 20 of that year, by those who were "by the providence of God inhabitants of Attleborough, it was voted and agreed upon that Deacon Daggett should be schoolmaster." Later in the year this record is found: "At a town-meeting Lawfully warned the 17th of December, 1716, for to Consider and Resolve what they will do with Respect to the Hireing of A School-master and see whether they accept of Mr. Josiah Jacques as schoolmaster on any of those terms Mr. Freeman has agreed for him, the said Jacques, it was voted to hire Mr. Jacques of Mr. Freeman for one year for a School-master, and to pay Mr. Freeman twenty pounds in current money of this province, or proportionally for less time, if he should not stay so long." This man of whom the town hired the schoolmaster was Mr. David Freeman, who lived near the South Attleborough cemetery; therefore there seems to be no doubt that our first schools were kept in that part of the town. At this time there were no school buildings here, and for almost a hundred years the schools were kept in the houses of different inhabitants.

[1] This was at Seekonk Cove, at the mouth of the Ten Mile River.

For the year 1717 one Thomas Cathcart, of Martha's Vineyard, was the town schoolmaster, his salary being thirty pounds. The closing words of his receipt for this salary leave no doubt as to his reception of the money or its full equivalent: "I say received by me, Thomas Cathcart."

At this time Attleborough included the Gore, now Cumberland, R. I., and the population did not probably exceed five hundred people. This territory was all one district, and only one school was kept, as may be proved by the early records, where the *school* and the *schoolmaster* are invariably mentioned.

Under date December 5, 1718, is found the following record: "The meeting then held to consider what may be done respecting the school, to see where the town will place it; whether by a committee that may then and there be chosen to manage that affair, or any other way that may be thought proper. The Town voted and agreed that ye school should be kept seven months in one quarter of ye Town at a time, and that Quarter shall have power to place the school as they shall think most proper and convenient." At this time a committee of the five following men was appointed to make a division of the town into four quarters; namely, H. Peck, Ensign Whipple, Ensign Read, John Lovell, and Samuel Day. It was part of the duty of this committee to order the quarter in which the school should first be kept, which should follow, and so on until each quarter had had its proportionate seven months of schooling. No records are extant of any reports from this committee, and for about twenty years succeeding this date it is probable that "the method of public instruction" remained about the same.

In 1737 there was a division of the town into four *districts*, or quarters, "Northeast and Southeast, Northwest and Southwest."

On the records are found orders on the town treasurer showing that George Allen held the position of schoolmaster in 1724–26–28 and 1732, and he was paid from thirty to fifty pounds a year. These salaries were always or nearly always exclusive of "diet," and the inference is that the teacher was also entitled to conveyance to and from the school when necessary, as Mr. Ebenezer *Tiler* was several times paid by the town for "horse hire going to fetch ye schoolmaster." Sometimes in the earliest days the records show that persons offered to be responsible for the teacher's maintenance for a certain portion of the year; but later this matter was more frequently adjusted at town meeting, the warrants for the meetings stating that one of the questions to be decided by the town was "to see if they will do anything towards boarding the schoolmaster."

The records do not show what studies were pursued, as sometimes is the case in those of Rehoboth; but it is natural to suppose that they were, as in that town at first, the elementary ones of reading, writing, and arithmetic, or "casting accounts," and those only.

During some years there was no school at all, such being the case in 1735 and 1736. The record states: "In ye first place, it was put to vote to see

whether the town will hire a school-master, and the vote passed in the negative." But whether this decision was from a temporary lack of interest or lack of funds does not appear, no reasons or explanations being given. "The teachers at this time, as far as known, were John Gratrax, Benjamin Ide, and John Robbins, Jr. The latter was evidently a prominent man in his generation, as he held the office of town clerk and selectman several years."

In 1744, the Legislature passed an act "authorizing the division of towns into school districts," and those towns which numbered fifty families were compelled by this act to provide for proper instruction in all the English branches, and those which numbered a hundred families must add to these, instruction in Latin and Greek.

The records for the following year, 1745, show that progress had been made in this town. "At a town meeting lawfully warned and held ye 14th day of January, 1745, voted to choose a committee to divide the town into five parts and the Gore to be one part. Voted also that the school be kept in two places, six months each in each part, during the next two years and six months." In the words of another: "This committee made the division and named the houses where the school should be kept. This was the first step towards the district system, though its inception was still in the future. By this plan the school 'ambulated' from quarter to quarter, and house to house, and when one quarter had had its six months' schooling — three months in each of the two places — it waited two years and six months before its turn came again to drink at the fount of knowledge."

Besides this new arrangement of districts another change of importance occurred at this time. "A new impetus" was given to the cause of education in our midst, though its source cannot now be traced. It would certainly be very interesting to know what person or persons first suggested the new departure. The records say that the warrant for the above-mentioned meeting in January, 1745, contained an article as follows: "To see if the town will vote any money to be expended in keeping women schools." That so important an innovation might have due consideration, the article was laid over to an adjourned meeting, when it was voted to raise thirty pounds old tenor money, "to encourage ye keeping of women schools." Whether this appropriation was put to immediate use cannot now be ascertained. It was more than twenty years after schools were started in Rehoboth that they were, according to the records, open to children of both sexes; in our town it was almost thirty years before girls were admitted to the privileges of public education, and it would seem that at first they had separate schools. In Rehoboth the same teacher agreed to teach both boys and girls; here the distinct appropriation would seem to indicate a distinct school for "women." What the ideas of our forefathers really were on this question must be left to conjecture. Perhaps they deemed women in general incapable of learning

or regarded "reading, writing and ciphering," as accomplishments and unnecessary to the right performance of their then, in some senses, rather limited duties. Certainly the *pleasures* to be derived from education would not enter into the discussions or decisions of the stern men of those rigid and exacting times; but, whatever their ideas or motives, they determined to try the experiment. They could scarcely have foreseen the consequences of such a step or have realized to what it would lead; for had this been possible they might have been appalled at the effects produced by the now extensive higher education of women and have withheld their favorable vote for the initial departure in that direction.

We who read the history of this movement backwards can see that it was sure to come, and we have reason to be proud and grateful that it was left to our own time, "the enlightened nineteenth century," and conspicuously to our own land, to interpret in its highest sense the name first given to woman, by planting schools and colleges where she may be prepared for her proper position in life as the helpmeet for man to-day. Against great opposition, rational public opinion seems finally to have accepted and set its seal of approval upon the idea that the liberal education of women is, or is destined to be, a benefit, not an injury, and that the better the courses of instruction given them in almost all departments of knowledge, the better are they fitted to act well their part and to fulfil the duties of their sphere in life, whether that word "sphere" is considered in its narrowest or widest sense, according to the standard of yesterday or to-day. The results of the equal education of men and women have already been stupendous, and the possible consequences for good no one can calculate. Our town has kept pace step by step with other towns in the coeducation of her children. It would be of great interest to ascertain what was the cause of the change in public opinion here, and we can but deeply regret that the records upon the subject are so meagre and unsatisfactory.

For several years after the changes mentioned but little can be found upon the town books relating in any way to schools, and during some years no appropriations were made, or at least no records of any were made. In 1771 it is recorded that in the east part of the town there was "one week's additional schooling," no reason for the addition being mentioned. About this time the item of "diet" disappears or rather ceases to be decided by the town separately, the salary of the teachers being doubtless sufficiently increased to include that item, and they allowed to attend to the matter on their own account. A vote taken by the town in November of the year 1771 shows "that increased facilities for educational advantages were required,' the natural consequence of increased population and increased amounts of territory occupied.

It was voted at that time to choose a committee "to divide the town into twelve parts, and appoint the places where the school shall be kept." The

committee examined the territory, considered the needs as to space and numbers, and after due deliberation decided to make thirteen divisions. Having completed this work they presented their report, recommending the voters of the town to assemble and decide upon it. This was done, the previous vote was rescinded, a vote approving of the thirteen divisions was taken, and the houses where the school was to be kept were named. About this time men of considerable prominence in the town held the position of schoolmaster. Conspicuous among these was Elisha May, an account of whom appears elsewhere, his name appearing on the records as early as 1768 and again in later years. There can be no better proof of the high estimation in which the office of instructor was held in those times than to find such a man occupying the position.

In 1769 we find Ephraim Starkweather teacher of the "Grammar School" for a year. He was a man of prominence in Rehoboth, where he was born. His name appears on the Committee of Correspondence during the early part of the Revolution. In the years 1775 and 1778 he was representative from his native town to the General Court and served as senator for three years.

In 1776 it was "voted to *divide* the school money, that each one may have his equal part. Voted that no person shall send out of his own quarter. Voted that any quarter that neglects to improve *his* money within the year shall lose it. Voted that each quarter shall draw one thirteenth of the money raised for schooling." The amount of money raised at that time for this purpose is not stated.

In the year 1782–83 one Ebenezer Bacon was schoolmaster for a time. The records state that he received £2 8s. for keeping school two months in "Lt. Bolkcom's quarter."

At a meeting held September 13, 1784, among other things it was "voted to *Duble* the School money," a consummation greatly to be desired. During that year Samuel Tingley received £2 1s. 4d. for keeping school one month and boarding himself.

In 1787 the town voted to divide into twenty quarters. For some reason this was not done, and at the next meeting it was "voted and agreed to let the quarters stand as they be, and the money shall be divided among the quarters according to the number of children in said town from four to sixteen years old." This is the first mention of the appropriation of school money according to the number of children. Previously each quarter had had the same amount without regard to the size of the school. This method of dividing the money — per capita — continued in a general way, though subject "to some interruptions and various modifications" for almost a century, until the district system was abolished.

About 1789, when towns were by law authorized to divide their territory into school districts, the law met with strenuous resistance. There was a

strong popular opposition to it, chiefly on the ground that as the town raised the money it should retain the right and power to see to its appropriations and expenditures and not leave this to the discretion of irresponsible districts. This opposition continued for some time. Under a later law it was left to the discretion of the town to appoint a committee to make appraisals of district property, and it was the commendable practice of some towns to select a committee for that purpose from adjoining towns to insure impartiality. Now by the enactment of other laws these matters are again voted by the town. This town did not immediately carry the new law into effect.

March 17, 1789. "Voted to choose a committee to divide the town into twenty quarters for schooling." The committee numbered thirteen. March 13, just previous, is found the following entry: "This may certify that William May is appointed by the selectmen to keep a *Grамer* school in the town of Attleborough. Ebenezer Tyler, Town Clerk."

In 1808 the town fully complied with the above law, chose a committee and divided the territory into eighteen districts, and the committee's report, exactly and carefully describing their "metes and bounds," is copied verbatim on the town records over the names of the committee.

It is probable there were no schoolhouses up to 1804, as the records make no mention of any previous to that time. In that year the town gave the districts authority to raise money and build houses, "to select a spot where to build and to act upon any other matter that may be deemed beneficial to said districts, and not contrary to law." The district of Oldtown seems to have been the first to act upon this privilege granted by the town, and the Falls was next in order to take the necessary steps towards a building, by virtue of a warrant signed by the selectmen. After 1808 all the districts at different times received similar authority. For over twenty years the town elected the prudential committees, who received and expended the appropriation moneys and also made the arrangements with the teachers. Committees were also chosen by the town, one or two from each district, "to view and inspect the schools," but reports of their work are not extant.

It was in the year 1804 that a committee was first chosen to decide upon and select textbooks to be used in common in all the schools. The gentlemen composing this committee were Rev. John Wilder, Rev. Nathan Holman, Rev. James Read, Ebenezer Bacon, John Richardson, Jr., Dr. William Blanding, Joel Read, Elijah Ingraham, and Peter Thacher, and the majority of them were reëlected several times.

In 1789, as before stated, the first mention is made of the school money having been divided per capita, but the amount is not given. The numbering was generally done about November 1 each year. In 1798 the sum allowed to each child was determined by town vote to be fifty-eight cents; in 1801 this sum had increased to seventy-five cents, and in 1807 to one dollar per

child, which sum continued to be the amount allowed until 1829. The year 1815 was the only exception to the general rule, as then for some reason one half of the appropriation was equally distributed between the districts, and the other half according to the number of scholars. The amount of money distributed or the changes in the number of weeks of schooling is not recorded.

During the next few years there were not many changes of any kind. About 1829 it was voted that the prudential committees should be elected by each district, instead of by the town, as had been the case previously. November 1, 1830, it was "voted to appropriate the school money by dividing it among the several districts in the manner following, to wit, all districts numbering 50 scholars and upwards shall be intitled to one dollar each; otherwise those districts if any they be numbering less than 50 shall be intitled to two cents in addition to the dollar in the same proportion as the number falls short of 50. Example, a district numbering 25 scholars, draws $1.50."

April 2, 1838, "Voted to make the superintending school committee a reasonable compensation for services." Up to this time probably those services had been gratuitous. The same year it was voted that the Massachusetts School Fund should be appropriated as was other school money. "The Revised Statutes, Chap. 11, Sect. 13, provide that all moneys and stocks in the treasury on the first day of Jan. 1835, which shall have been derived from sales of the Commonwealth lands in the state of Maine, and from the claim of the Commonwealth on the government of the United States for military services, and which shall not be otherwise appropriated, together with one half of the moneys thereafter received from the sale of the lands in Maine, shall constitute a permanent fund, to be called the Mass. School Fund, for the encouragement of common schools, provided, that said sum shall never exceed one million dollars." These lands were a part of the domain of this State when Maine was a portion of it, and the title remained vested in the Commonwealth after Maine became a separate State. The military claims were those made by this State upon the United States government, for expenses incurred in calling the militia into service in defence of the country during the War of 1812. The original claim was for $800,000. This was resisted and there was a conflict of authority between the State and national governments because Massachusetts did not fully comply with all the requisitions and did not place the militia furnished under full control of a military officer of the United States. For these reasons only a portion of the claim was paid to the State. The fund is placed in the hands of the secretary and treasurer of the Board of Education as commissioners, and new investments must be made with the governor's approval. The income only is to be used for the benefit of the schools, and is to be distributed in the following manner: —

One-half of the annual income of the fund shall be appropriated and distributed without a specific appropriation for the support of public schools, and in the manner following: to wit, every town complying with all laws in force, relating to the distribution of said income, and whose valuation of real and personal estate, as shown by the last returns thereof, does not exceed one million dollars, shall annually receive two hundred dollars; every such town, whose valuation is more than one million, and does not exceed three million dollars, shall receive one hundred and fifty dollars; and every such town, whose valuation is more than three million, and does not exceed five million dollars, shall receive one hundred dollars. The remainder of said half shall be distributed to all the cities and towns whose valuation does not exceed ten million dollars, in proportion to the number of persons between five and fifteen years of age belonging to each. All money appropriated for other educational purposes, unless otherwise specially provided, shall be paid from the other half of said income. If the income in any year exceeds such appropriations, the surplus shall be added to the principal of said fund.

Towns which do not maintain at least one high school and who do not raise by taxation at least three dollars per capita for the children between five and fifteen receive no apportionment from this fund. It is provided that the school committees of the various cities and towns shall receive and apply the portion of this income accruing to them to the benefit of the schools, and that they may, if they so deem best, appropriate any sum not exceeding twenty-five per cent. of the amount received for books of reference, maps, and apparatus for the use of the said schools. The valuation of this town for 1887 exceeded $6,000,000. The appropriation must therefore be according to the number of children between five and fifteen years of age. The amount is not far from $100.

From 1838 till 1850 school affairs seem to have run on smoothly in their fixed groove, but in the latter year there were incendiary fires at several of the schoolhouses. The selectmen offered a reward of $500 for the apprehension of the criminals, and the town resolved itself into a "committee of the whole," for the protection of property. There is no record that the reward was claimed, that any person was arrested, or that there was any further trouble of a similar nature.

The following report of the school committee for 1845 was found among the author's papers. It is presented entire, not only because as coming from his pen it will give pleasure to some readers, but because of some facts and statistics contained in it, which will interest those concerned in the progress of the cause of public schools in the town and the State: —

During the past year the schools in this town have generally been prosperous, and useful; and have contributed in some degree in educating the youth of the town in knowledge and virtue; in making one step in advance in that long path of improvement in education, so much of which remains unattained. In saying thus much in their favor, we do not intend to convey the impression, that we should rest satisfied with the condition to which they have already attained. They are far from what they ought to be and might be. There is no institution, planted here by our fathers, which is susceptible of such indefinite improvement as our common school system. There is no conceivable end to its advancement. There are some institutions of human origin which seem to reach their maturity at once, and ever after to remain stationary. But here is a most useful and excellent system of education intended to enlighten the whole people, in which the most expanded benevolence may have room for an unlimited exercise of its powers. In improving the means of universal instruction philanthropy may

find a glorious field for the gratification of its desires, and without any danger of attendant evils. No one need fear too much improvement in the intellectual resources of a Republican people. In other parts of the world, under other systems of government, the advocates of arbitrary power may fear the march of human improvement — the effects of the general diffusion of knowledge among the people, They may dread a free school as an enemy to their government. But with us, the reverse is true; the friends of Republican government dread the ignorance of the people as the source of our greatest danger; and regard the general intelligence of the people as our surest safeguard and best support. In fact, it has become a maxim of admitted truth, that the foundation of a Republican government rests on the intelligence and virtue of the people.

We again commend our free schools to the guardian care of the inhabitants of the town. Be not niggardly in your appropriations for their support. Whatever sum you expend for the education of the rising generation — for those who are soon to succeed you in the various and important duties which you have assembled here to discharge. will return to you with tenfold interest — not. indeed, in perishable gold and silver, but in that which is of much more value, — in the increased knowledge, virtue, and happiness of your children. It will not, indeed, return to you, in kind, but it will come back to you in the richest blessings. You will receive your own with usury. Education is not merely an embellishment — an ornament — which can be dispensed with, but it is a necessity in a free gov't. All experience in civil affairs, all history, all reason teaches us with one voice, that an enlightened education of the people is necessary to the permanence of our civil institutions, to guard and guide the people in the exercise of their rights. True liberty can never flourish among a people enveloped in mental darkness. Deprived of the sunlight of knowledge it will perish like a plant in the shade. An ignorant or illiterate nation are sure to degenerate into anarchy and despotism. Let every friend of free institutions use his best endeavors to promote the cause of universal education; let him cherish our system of free schools. If our town is somewhat distinguished for agricultural improvement — for manufacturing industry — for the enterprise of its inhabitants, and their general competency as to the means of living, — let us be equally solicitous to maintain as respectable a standing in our appropriations for the cause of education. Let us be, at least, *just* to ourselves — if not liberal in the amount which we bestow, or rather loan, for this noble object. If we have been as a town blessed with a good measure of success in our business pursuits and the means of wealth, let us manifest our gratitude for the blessing by an increased interest in the intellectual and moral culture of the rising generation. An enlightened self-interest would prompt us to this course. Here at least "true self love and social are the same."

The Committee would call the attention of the Inhabitants of the town to the great evil of the irregular attendance of scholars upon the schools. This frequent non-attendance is not unavoidable, but, in a great measure, results from a want of proper care, or from indifference on the part of parents. The average attendance in most of our schools, during the winter, has been more than 20 per cent. less than the whole number of scholars. This is an evil which ought to be remedied. There is one remarkable exception to this remark in District No. 20, Hebronville, where the average attendance during the whole school has been almost equal to the whole number attending from week to week. This presents an example which deserves our commendation, one which we hope will induce an imitation in the other Districts.

From statistics given in the last Report of the Secretary of the Board of Education, we learn one fact which will surprise the public — an evil the exposure of which will, we trust, excite the community to a remedy. We refer to the great number of children in the Comth who do not attend school. In that Report it is stated that the whole number of children in the State, between the ages of 4 and 16, in the year 1843, was 192,027; that the whole number of scholars of all ages attending school during that winter was 169,191; leaving a balance of 22,836; but deducting the number over 16 and under 4 who attend school included in the whole number above mentioned, it leaves a balance of 42,312 who did not attend school during that year, and probably the same proportion continues at the present time. The community may well ask, can this be true in the State of Massachusetts, where more attention is given to the subject of education than in any other State; here where we have taken so much satisfaction in the belief that provision had been made by law for the education of all, and of which all had partaken? But if such is the case here, in the enlightened State of Massachusetts, where

public opinion and law both favor the cause, what must it be in those States where no public provision has been made for the education of youth!

The greatest glory of a Republic is the general diffusion of useful knowledge among its citizens. Their national renown should consist — not in military victories and conquests, but in the intellectual pre-eminence of the people.

If the people of this country wish to preserve and perpetuate their civil rights and Republican form of government, and transmit them for the enjoyment of future ages, they must insure it by giving a liberal and constant support to our common schools. As our schools are intended as nurseries for those who are to take the control of public affairs, nurseries where the great majority of the people obtain the only means of education which they ever enjoy, we think it obvious, that the instruction given in them should be adapted to their situation and duties in society, not only in the common branches which will fit them for the ordinary business of life, but also in such studies as will qualify them for the responsible duties which they have to perform as members of civil society. Boys of a suitable age should be instructed in a knowledge of the State and National Constitutions, and in the general principles of the government, and in the civil history of the country.

It should be one great object of our gov't and people to extend to all the blessings of education. This is the great mission of a free people. Let us in this respect present a contrast with the monarchies of the old world. Let it be our great object to form *men*. Let the old world have their splendid palaces, their sublime cathedrals, — their courtly retinues, their titles of nobility, and all the pomp and pageantry which attach to Royalty, — let them have their standing armies and their bloody battlefields — but give us the fruits of peace, universal education, the emancipation of mind, the freedom of the soul. Let them display their wealth accumulated for ages, where the intellects of the many poor are darkened and enslaved in the midst of the luxuries and the grandeur of the noble few. When the enlightened traveller comes from other lands to examine the condition of our country, and inquires for the monuments of our national renown and exploits, we would be able to point him to our colleges and academies, and our free schools scattered all over the land, where the minds of all can have free access to the fountains of knowledge, — as the best exhibition of our national character and the proudest monuments of our national glory. We would point him, not to our great and populous cities where vice enervates — (not to our accumulated wealth —) but to the millions of *minds* which we have enlightened and improved and blessed by the means of education.

Per order of the Committee

Attleborough, April 7, 1845. J. DAGGETT, *Sec'y.*

April 7, 1851, the matter of a high school came before the town and was referred to the following committee of six gentlemen: Rev. Joseph S. Dennis, Lyman W. Daggett, Caleb M. Paine, Dr. Phineas Savery, A. M. Ide, and Rev. Jonathan Crane. The school rates had by this time largely increased, for at the above-mentioned meeting it was voted to raise $4.50 per scholar and apportion it as had previously been done. On November 24 the high school committee made a report in which they suggested the advisability of at once establishing high schools, agreeably to the law which demands the maintenance in towns of at least one school "whose teachers shall be qualified to instruct in the history of the United States, bookkeeping, surveying, geometry, algebra, general history, rhetoric, logic, and the Latin and Greek languages"; or, if a central place cannot be found, two or more schools can be kept whose terms together shall equal twelve months. This not being done the town is liable by the provisions of the law to a heavy fine; namely, twice the amount ever raised in one year for schools. Three fourths of this amount would be returned, but one fourth would be

paid into the county treasury. At this time $4,150 had been raised for school purposes in this town. This committee further recommended the establishment of three schools, one each in the east, west, and north districts, to be maintained by each district, and, if either district refused, that its portion of the appropriation should be equally divided between the other two. The town at this meeting voted to establish high schools and referred the matter to the town school committee to make inquiries and arrangements and report.

No further action seems to have been taken by the town until April 5, 1853, when the sum of $600 was appropriated to carry out the vote of the town regarding the establishment of high schools. The committee of inquiry and arrangements made a report describing a division of the town into three high school districts.

A warrant dated May 7, 1855, contained the following article: "To see if the town will instruct their school committee to cause the common English version of the Bible or the New Testament of said Bible to be used in the Public Schools of this town at least once per day by all the scholars of sufficient intellectual attainments in the opinion of the teachers to read the same." May 23 it was voted to adopt the above article.

There were further delays over the establishment of the high schools, and it was not until June 5, 1856, that action was again taken by the town in regard to them. At that time a committee of nine, three each from the east, north, and south districts, was appointed to consider, receive propositions, etc. At an adjourned meeting held June 28 this committee reported. The town accepted the report and voted to establish two instead of three high schools, one at North Attleborough and one at East Attleborough. "Voted that the sum of $12,000 be, and the same is hereby appropriated for constructing suitable school houses, and purchasing lots to locate the same; One moiety thereof to be expended upon each building and lot." The committee at North Attleborough were Samuel J. Ladd, Stephen Richardson, 2d, Abiel Codding, Jr.; at East Attleborough, J. C. Hidden, V. H. Capron, L. B. Carpenter. These committees met but could not agree upon locations.

In 1858 the school districts were resurveyed. There were nineteen districts and those in charge of this matter made report of some changes in the lines, which were accepted by the town.

In 1859 $5 per scholar was appropriated and divided in the usual manner. The following year it was voted to divide one seventh of the school appropriation between the districts equally and six sevenths between the scholars equally, after paying for the services of the school committee.

In 1865 the school appropriation amounted to $5,500.

April 1, 1867. "Voted to establish one High School at East Attleborough, and one at North Attleborough, and that three thousand dollars be appropriated for their support." A committee of five was chosen to provide suitable

places and make necessary arrangements. These five were Henry Rice, F. G. Whitney, J. R. Bronson, J. W. Capron, William P. Shaw.

In 1869 the school property was taken possession of by the town and an appraisal committee appointed. Their subsequent report placed the total appraisal at $33,230.74.

In 1872 the appropriation for schools was $9,000. April 1, 1872, "Voted that the Dog Fund be appropriated to the use of Common Schools." In 1877 the appropriations for school purposes were "$13,000 for Common Schools, and $3,500 for High Schools."

Fourteen years after the establishment of the high schools by vote, building sites were finally selected. No undue haste in action had followed upon the town's decision to erect suitable buildings; time was taken to give the matter meet and proper consideration and deliberation, and finally affairs were in such condition as to admit of further action.

At a town meeting held April 4, 1881, $25,000 were appropriated and the following named gentlemen elected a building committee: Joseph G. Barden, George N. Crandall, Charles E. Bliss, Henry Rice, Charles E. Hayward, Edward R. Price, and Rev. John Whitehill, the last named being chairman. March 20, 1882, a further appropriation of $6,000 was made to complete the two high school buildings, and $500 for necessary apparatus for the two schools.

By an act of Legislature approved May 12, 1882, to take effect January 1, 1883, school districts were abolished in this State. When this law took effect the towns assumed the expense of text-books, and since that time these have been furnished to the scholars free of charge, that is, for their use so long as they are required in the various grades and classes, but they remain the property of the town. In this same year, 1882, a second appraisal of the school property was made. On January 6 a nominating committee was appointed, and Handel N. Daggett, George A. Dean, George N. Crandall, Frank B. Richards, William P. Shaw, Joseph G. Barden, and Elisha G. May were proposed by them and accepted by the town to make the appraisal. These gentlemen accomplished the proposed work and made a detailed report. The total valuation was $36,595.44.

March 17, 1884, a third appropriation of $242.92 was made for the high school buildings, making their entire cost $31,242.92. These buildings are in both instances pleasantly situated. The one in East Attleborough stands on the corner of Bank and Peck streets; that in North Attleborough on High Street and on more elevated ground. They are built on the same plan but have some changes in their towers, entrances, etc. They are well built and well finished both outside and in and are furnished with the appliances necessary to the proper carrying out of the course of instruction required. Each contains an especially useful and important laboratory, large schoolrooms, necessary recitation rooms, anterooms, offices, etc., and they are

comfortably and conveniently adequate for the purposes for which they were constructed. They are palaces of beauty and luxury, physically and intellectually, when compared with the homely, comfortless buildings of early days. There are three excellent courses of study pursued in these schools, the classical, the general, and the English, the first two extending over four years, and the latter over three. They furnish a good education to those who do not desire or cannot have a longer continued school life, and a good foundation for those in town who intend to pursue higher courses elsewhere.

Enough facts and figures have been given to show something of the great growth of the town in the important matter of general education, and some idea may be obtained of the proportions the work of the school committee had assumed. Not only had the increase both in the number of schools and scholars added materially to their labors, but the additions required year by year in the directions of advantages to be given and improvements to be made in the courses of study pursued and the places where they were to be pursued had also constantly augmented the demands upon their time. It can readily be seen that the work of a school committee must always be in some measure "district" in its nature, especially in a town so large as ours had come to be. Its members could not separately become thoroughly conversant with the workings of every school in detail, including the performance of the other duties devolving upon them, without devoting their entire time to the business. The need of a superintendent of schools had become obviously great, and in their report for the year 1882 the school committee wisely recommended the town to make an appropriation for that purpose, for, as they considered, such an officer was indispensable "to the highest welfare of our schools."

The town acted upon this suggestion, and at its annual meeting, March 19, 1883, made the necessary appropriation. In May following a superintendent assumed the duties of this office.

It having come to the ears of the present (1887) incumbent, Mr. Maxson, that it had been a matter of conjecture and comment among some people what could engage a superintendent's time, he in his report for the year ending February 28, 1886, enumerates in the following words a few of the items that engage such an officer's attention: "Under the free text-book system much time is taken in the purchase and distribution of the supplies. He must buy everything needed in the schools, from shoe-pegs for the primary to chemicals for the high schools, considering in each case the questions of price, quality, and suitability. Ink must be carried to this school, a broom to that, and books to another. Good teachers to fill vacancies must be hunted up, requiring much time and the writing of innumerable letters. The schools must be frequently visited, and the work examined. Truancy must be investigated, cases of discipline considered, misunderstandings between parents and teachers removed, school surroundings studied, pupils classified and

promoted or degraded, uniform examinations prepared, teachers advised and directed, changes in the system considered, text-books examined, teachers' meetings and grade meetings held, and regular office hours observed at each village two days in the week. Having done all these things, and by personal inspection informed himself of the wise, faithful and full execution of the school system, he must in his spare moments acquaint himself with the school system in other towns and cities, and with advancement in educational matters in the world at large, that he may improve his own system." The superintendent further states that in the discharge of some of the duties thus enumerated he had, during a little more than five months prior to his report, made five hundred and sixty-three calls at the different schoolrooms and ridden on an average nine miles a day. The question might better be not "What does he have to do?" but "How can he do so much?"

In 1884 it was voted to expend $20,000 on enlarging and repairing school buildings; $27,900 was the appropriation for the schools, $2,000 for incidental educational expenses, and $1,500 for text-books, stationery, etc., all of which, under the present system, are supplied at public expense.

In 1885 $600 was appropriated for carrying children from outlying territories to their various schools.

Since its first appropriation for the purpose in 1872, the dog fund has continued to be used for the benefit of the schools. This is a yearly increasing fund and in 1886–87 amounted to $1,034.67. In the same year the appropriation for schools was $30,000; for incidental expenses, $1,500; for text-books and supplies, $2,500; for the conveyance of scholars, $600; for repairs, $3,000 — a total, including the dog fund, of $38,634.67. To this must be added the money obtained from the several school funds, to determine the entire sum at the disposal of the town and of some special portions of it for the public schools.

The records give no clew to the number of pupils in the early schools, and it is not until a recent date, 1850, that any approximation can be formed. About that time it was stated that $4,150 had been raised for schools, and the cost per child was $4.50. There may probably have been then some nine hundred children, with an average attendance considerably less; but no positive figures can be given, as the records furnish only the two above. For later years more exact figures can be given. In 1880 the average membership was 1,541, with a daily attendance of 1,359, and the cost of teaching per capita $11.39.

The change from the district to the municipal system marked itself at once as advantageous, for the first report from the superintendent showed an increase of pupils and presented many encouraging features. A comparison of the figures for 1880, two years preceding the change, and those for 1885, two years succeeding, show great improvement. In those five years there was an increase in both membership and attendance of thirty-three and a third per cent. and

a decrease in the cost per pupil of thirty-nine cents on membership and fifty-four cents on attendance. These facts speak for themselves and need no comment. This increase has been continuous. The report for the year ending February, 1887, gives the number of pupils within the required ages as 2,616, with an average attendance of 1,894.8. There are twenty-four school buildings and sixty teachers, three of whom are males. The cost of teaching has largely increased since "ye olden time" and during 1887 was $12.99 per capita, based upon the average attendance of pupils, and over one dollar more per capita for text-books and supplies. These figures are on a basis of thirty-eight weeks as a school year, though this varies in length from thirty-six to thirty-eight weeks according to circumstances.

A number of years ago drawing was introduced into the schools, and for some time a special teacher was employed. Now text-books are used in this department, and the regular teachers have charge of this branch of instruction. Formerly singing was almost entirely optional with teachers, and the result was naturally irregularity and inaccuracy. The present custom of employing a regular instructor in music proves highly beneficial both in a practicable and enjoyable sense. Children are taught to read music as they are taught to read their primers and, as they advance in this direction, to assume at will the different parts of songs or choruses. This knowledge will at least give pleasure to themselves and others and in many instances may prove to be of great value. Our schools have already attained considerable proficiency in this section of their prescribed courses of study, and the yearly report of the professor of music shows continual advancement and improvement. The training in this department is left largely to the regular teachers, it being the work of the special instructors to have the oversight and direction and to instruct as to the best methods of accomplishing the desired results.

A certain amount of physical exercise is demanded in all the grades. Twice a day the pupils have a "marching or calisthenic exercise," and in some of the higher grades there is a regular drill in light gymnastics. In many of these exercises the light dumb bells used add greatly to the effect, and the "drills" are made more elaborate by musical accompaniment. This enhances the enjoyment of the pupil, rendering the exercise desirable from that point of view and helping to make it perhaps among the most serviceable in the school life. In buildings where fire escapes are necessary the children are taught to use them, going through the routine frequently. This knowledge has not fortunately thus far been put to a practical test in our town, though it has in some of our large cities and has proved of the greatest use. From constant practice children have been through their drill with mechanical precision at the teacher's command, while fire was raging near them, the regularity with which they moved preventing a panic and enabling all to escape, thus saving many lives. Much more attention is paid to the health of children in the schools than formerly. It has been proved that

well warmed, equally well ventilated, and comfortably furnished rooms, by ensuring better physical conditions, ensure consequently a higher standard of excellence in intellectual progress and development.

The North High School has had four principals: namely, Burrill Porter, Jr., from May, 1867, to July, 1879; Henry M. Maxson from September, 1879, to October 1, 1885; F. S. Hotaling from October 1, 1885, to April, 1886; George W. Lyman from April, 1886, to the present time (1887). This school has had seven assistants: Lucy L. Holden, Mrs. Sarah Austin, Mary I. Hinckley (now Mrs. E. A. Hall), Elizabeth K. Goss (now Mrs. Albert Dodge, of Minneapolis, Minn.), Agnes Pierce (now Mrs. John D. Long), Bertha Pierce, and Mary W. Pierce. The average membership has been about fifty, and the graduates number about one hundred and seventy-five.

The East High School has had six principals: Calvin G. Hill, William Wilkins, A. F. Wood, Jr., J. Osmond Tiffany (who served thirteen years, from 1872 till May, 1885, when he resigned), J. H. Lord from May, 1885, till December, 1885, and W. C. Hobbs, who took the position in January, 1886, and still continues. The assistants have been seven in number; namely, Mrs. C. G. Hill, Emma Tonks (now wife of Rev. John Baxter, of England, and for a time a missionary in East Africa), Miss Kelton, M. C. Sheffield,[1] Miss Hawes, Annie Rice, Helen W. Metcalf, and Emma C. Lord. Miss Metcalf is now serving the second time, and Mary W. Pierce, of North Attleborough, teaches here for a stated number of hours as well as in that village. The average membership of this school has been about forty-five, and there have been probably about one hundred and fifty graduates.

The town has had three superintendents of schools: Francis E. Burnette, Andrew W. Edson, and Henry M. Maxson, who was elected October 1, 1885, and continued to serve until after the division. The instructors in music are J. H. Whittemore and his daughter, Mary E. Whittemore, who have held the position for several years. The school committee for 1887 were George E. Osgood, J. O. Tiffany, Byron R. Hill, Henry S. Kilby, George Randall, Harvey Clap, Mary A. Mathias, Lidora E. Briggs, Leda J. Thompson. These officers are elected for periods of two and three years, so a portion only of the terms expire annually. At the annual meeting of 1886 Mrs. John Wood and Miss Briggs were elected to a position on the school board, the first women in town to hold that position, and the latter received a reëlection.

There are three school funds in the town, the largest of which is derived from a legacy of Abiathar Augustus Richardson, who died in 1843. The portion of his will relating to this legacy is herewith quoted. After ordering his executors to pay his debts and two bequests of household furniture and clothing, he devises as follows: —

[1] Wife of G. E. Brightman, now (1893) pastor of the Methodist Church.

Item, — The residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal I dispose of as follows: I first direct that the same shall be converted into cash or its equivalent, as soon as may be convenient after my decease, which shall forever constitute a school fund to be used and the proceeds appropriated as herein expressed; the principal (no part of which is ever to be expended) shall be loaned out at lawful interest, with good security on real estate, and the interest thereof only shall be annually taken and appropriated to the use, support or maintenance of the common free schools in the Second Precinct or Parish in Attleborough, in which I live, for the benefit of all the schools in said Parish, which fund shall be managed by twelve persons belonging to said Parish as a board of trustees, who are to be chosen once in three years, — and any vacancies which may occur, whenever said parish shall deem proper, may be filled by said parish.

Lastly I do nominate and appoint John Daggett, Esquire, of said Attleborough, to be the executor of this my last will and testament, who is hereby directed to sell and deliver over the proceeds as aforesaid.

Witnesses, Dated July 9, 1842.
John Daggett, Signed
Harvey Claflin, Abiathar A. Richardson.
Phineas Savery. J. W. Capron, Clerk.

Codicil, dated Jan. 31, 1848.

I hereby order and direct that the income of the school fund mentioned in said will, shall be distributed to the schools, meaning the school districts, whose school-houses are located within the present territorial limits of the second parish mentioned in my said will in manner following, to wit: One-half of said income, shall be distributed equally to each and every of said School Districts, and the other half shall be distributed to them in proportion to the number of scholars in each district, and if ever in the course of time, the said Parish should be dissolved, abolished or discontinued, or should fail to elect a Board of Trustees, as provided in said will, or the said Trustees should by any means be incapable in law of holding said fund, in that case I direct that such fund be managed by trustees chosen by one from each School District legally chosen: and if ever the present School District System should be abolished or discontinued, in that case I direct that said income shall be appropriated to the support of such free school or schools as the trustees for the time being shall establish in said limits.

My will is that the Board of Trustees mentioned in my said will may be selected by said parish from any of the inhabitants within the territorial limits of said Parish, and in any case of any failure of a Board of Trustees to hold said fund, I direct that said fund shall be managed by Trustees appointed as the Supreme Court shall prescribe.

January 25, 1846, John Daggett, executor, notified the standing committee of the Second Parish of his being ready to pay into the hands of the trustees, when chosen, the fund accruing from this estate, it being then in his hands. March 28, it was voted by the parish to choose the following persons to act as trustees of this fund: Samuel Carpenter, John Daggett, committee at large, Lucas Daggett, Willard Blackinton, Seba Carpenter, Elias Fuller, Daniel Carpenter, Elkanah Briggs, Noah Blanding, Forrist Forster, Draper Parmenter, and Gardner Dunham. On May 3, 1850, these twelve trustees were incorporated by Act of Legislature, under the title of Trustees of the Richardson School Fund in Attleborough. They were vested with full power and authority to fill vacancies in their board, make all necessary regulations and by-laws for their government and the security and management of the fund, and with power to hold both real estate and personal property. They had power to receive, invest, and manage the estate of the fund, and to take charge of the income, paying it over to the schools, as directed by the will.

The corporation was empowered to appoint officers according to its by-laws, and to establish rules and regulations for the distribution of the income of the fund, "provided, the said rules, regulations and by-laws do not conflict with the purposes of said will or the laws of the Commonwealth."

At the time of Mr. Richardson's death, or when paid over to the trustees, this gift amounted to $11,000. Since that time it has nearly doubled in value. In 1887 its value was given as $20,250.58. It is invested, according to the tenets of the will, in real estate loans and chiefly in this town. Up to this time there has been a six per cent. interest obtained. In the more than forty years since the legacy was given there have been but two presidents of the board of trustees. John Daggett, the first appointed, held the office from 1846 till his death in 1885. The present trustees are Everett S. Horton, president; Frank I. Babcock, secretary; Charles E. Bliss, treasurer; Shephard W. Carpenter, James H. Sturdy, John Thacher, Everett S. Capron, Hartford S. Babcock, George F. Bicknell, Joseph M. Bates, William H. Smith, J. Lyman Sweet.

South Attleborough, or what was formerly District No. 8, has the benefit of a bequest made to it by "the Frenchman," Joseph A. Richaud, so long a resident there. He kept a store, made some money, and as he never married he made this district the heir to his entire little property, provided it should not be called for within six years after his death, by a nephew who was supposed to be living in France. Richaud was a deist and his will, which he himself dictated, "disavows a belief in the divinity of Christ, and the Christian religion." In this same document he declared his disbelief in Mahomet, and asserted that he had a reliance on the "only living and true God," and to him he commended his spirit. This property amounted originally to about $700. It has probably increased, but we have not been able to ascertain exactly its present value, how it is invested, or the amount of income it yields annually.

The third fund is that of the Holmes neighborhood. This is from a legacy of Milton Holmes, which consisted of a dwelling-house, some woodland, and some money, and the fund was established in 1863. The income was used up to 1878. About that time the institutions where the money was invested ceased to pay interest, and for some time there was danger that the principal would be lost. Happily this misfortune was averted, and the money has been restored. This fund is managed by trustees. H. K. W. Allen and Joseph L. Holmes were the first appointed. The latter resigned in 1878, and A. F. Underwood was chosen to take his place. He and Mr. Allen are still in charge. The fund now (1889) amounts to about $2,100.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL.

This appears to have been the first private school in town. On February 5, 1800, Peter Thacher, Abiathar Richardson, Gideon Sweet, Nathaniel

Robinson, Ebenezer Tyler, second. Daniel Carpenter, Jr., Eliphalet Wilmarth, Daniel Carpenter, Caleb Richardson, Jr., Benjamin Bolkcom, Henry Sweet, Jr., Elijah Ingraham, Dexter Sweet, Gideon Sweet, Jr., John Wilmarth, Noah Blandin, Noah Tiffany, Jonathan Robinson. Joshua Bassett, Otis Capron, Elijah Capron, Abiathar Richardson, Jr., Nehemiah Bourn, Jonathan Peck, and Abijah Everett, met at the house of Benjamin Bolkcom and agreed to build a schoolhouse "nigh the meetinghouse." It was also agreed that Jonathan Peck should build the house for $328, and he was to complete it by September of the same year. "Then agreed that Each Proprietor that doth not improve the House may receive annually in Money his proportion of the rent."

Commonwealth of Mass. A.D. 1802.

An Act to Establish A School in the S. Parish in the town of Attleboro': by the Name of Franklin School and for Incorporating the Trustees of said School into a body politic.

Whereas the Education of Youth has ever been considered by the wise and good as an object of the highest consequence to the Safety and happiness of a free people, And Whereas Abijah Everett of Attleboro': in the County of Bristol physician and Abigail his wife by their Deed made and executed on the tenth Day of April A. D. 1800 gave granted and conveyed unto Peter Thacher and those herein Named and to their heirs forever a certain piece of land Situate in the 2d Precinct or Parish in said Attleboro': to be holden in Fifty four rights or shares to the use and upon the trust that the rents and profits thereof be forever appropriated to the Support of a School in the said 2d precinct forever for the Instruction of Youth in Such languages and in Such branches of Science as are usually taught in Schools. And Whereas the Execution of the Generous intentions of the Donors towards the said Institution may be attended with imbarrissments unless by an Act of Incorporation the Trustees and their Successors shall be Authorized to Commence and prosecute actions at law and to transact such other matters in their Corporate capacity as the interest of the said school may require.

It was further enacted that the school should be established "for the promotion of virtue and the instruction of Youth of Each sex in such languages and such Branches of the Arts and Sciences as the said Trustees may from time to time think Expidient and within the Income and funds of said School to support." These trustees could "sue and be sued," and they and their successors became perpetual supervisors and "true and Sole Visitors, Trustees, and Governors." They were to appoint a president, secretary, treasurer, preceptor, and such other officers as they deemed necessary; were to make rules with adequate penalties for the breakage thereof, provided the rules, etc., "be in no wise repugnant to the laws of the Commonwealth." They were empowered to hold real estate, — land, tenements, etc., — provided that the annual income did not exceed the sum of $500, and personal property to the same amount. They were not to receive anything which should compel them to act in any way contrary to the designs of the donors of the land. This act was approved by the governor June 23, 1802.

The first meeting in the new schoolhouse was held October 4, 1802, when Peter Thacher was elected president, Joshua Bassett secretary, and Noah Blandin treasurer. Elijah Ingraham, Ebenezer Tyler, 2d, Peter Thacher,

Caleb Richardson, Jr., and Henry Sweet were the committee chosen to draft by-laws, and these were accepted at an adjourned meeting held the "8th of November at five o'clock in the afternoon." At this same time it was "voted that the rent of the School House be at the rate of 24 Dollars per year." The officers were to rent under direction of the trustees, were to have the management of the house, keep the keys, but use their own discretion as to the length of rental; and the secretary was directed to "make a fair and impartial record of all the several meetings," etc. December 13, 1802, the first preceptor, Mr. Israel Day, Jr., was chosen, and it was voted to let the house for the purpose of singing. Mr. Day appears to be the only preceptor chosen by the trustees, but it is known that Rev. Nathan Holman had a school in this building, and Moses Thacher and Preston Cummings also taught here. They probably rented the house and obtained scholars by their own efforts. In the summer of 1803 there seems to have been a "Woman's School," and among the records for that year was a vote to pay the secretary twelve and a half cents a page for recording transfers of shares and certifying the same.

February 10, 1804, by act of Legislature the word "South" in the act of incorporation was changed to "East," because that part of the town was universally known as the "East Precinct." No other record has been noticed where the word south is used. October 14, 1805, "Voted that a singing school may be kept in said house provided that it does not Interfere with the school usually kept." The following year it was mentioned that the rent was relinquished to whoever had had the building, the "Arts and Sciences" apparently not flourishing at that time. In 1815 it was voted to use the schoolhouse for conferences, if it was wanted, at one shilling a meeting, and the rent in summer seems to have been then one dollar a month. Peter Thacher was president of the organization from the commencement until 1815, when Jonathan Peck was chosen to the office, and he retained it as long as the organization had an active existence.

May 26, 1824, it was "voted that the President Secretary and Treasurer of Franklin School be impowered to leace their School house lot to the Incorporated Congregational Society in the Second Precinct in Attleboro for the term of Nine hundred and ninety nine Years for a meeting house lot the rent to be paid annually. Voted that if the aforesaid Officers do leace their lot as aforesaid they are then impowered and requested to sell their school house at Publick auction. Voted to adjourn to June 13th." The last record in the trustees' book reads as follows: "June 13th Know meeting."

This auction no doubt took place, for the building became the property of District No. 18. It was removed to South Main Street, to a spot on the west side of the road just below where the railroad now crosses it, and stood about where the small house north of the residence of Mrs. L. B. Sweet now stands. It is spoken of as a "little building, painted yellow."

It was a square hip-roofed structure, primitive in style and finish, and several people can recall its appearance after it became a district schoolhouse. The teacher's desk was opposite the entrance door and was raised two or three feet above the floor, while the scholars' seats were "in four tiers, each one higher than the other; the boys' on one side, and the girls' on the other." These seats were no doubt long wooden benches like those of other schoolhouses in early days, and the room was heated by "the oldfashioned box stove." There was great excitement, it is said, among the children gathered here when they saw the first railroad train pass through the town, and the teacher warned them to keep their heads inside the building lest otherwise they might be "taken off by the cars."

Among the district teachers here were the Misses Susan and Polly Messenger, Miss Harrington, Miss Lydia Mann (sister of Horace Mann), Miss Caroline Porter (now Mrs. Harlow and living in Brooklyn, L. I.), and Mr. Lyman W. Dean. Strict attention was paid to the manners of the scholars in those early days, no girl being allowed to leave the room without making a courtesy and no boy without making a bow. Strict attention seems also to have been paid to discipline, especially to punishments, and our present deputy sheriff will perhaps recall an agonizing day there when one of the above-mentioned teachers sat by his side during the longest, soberest hour of his then short life, holding up before him her sharp-looking penknife, which he momently expected to be put to its threatened use of cutting off his ear. It meant something to be caught in mischief when our elders were boys; perhaps that is the reason why there was so much "fun" in it.

About 1838, when the Sweet house was built, this schoolhouse was removed to a site farther down the street, on the same side. It was purchased by a Mr. Holman Fuller and converted into a dwelling-house, and it still remains on that site. The body of the present house is the original structure, but its roof is no longer hipped; it has a wing, long, low windows, piazzas, and ornamentation enough to shock the plain, homely taste of the fathers who built it. In 1842 the house was bought by Mr. Nathan C. Luther, who occupied it for some time. Later it was owned and occupied by Mr. Joel Moore, and later still by Mr. William Thompson, who made extensive alterations and improvements. It is now owned and occupied by Captain William H. Goff. Built for the purpose of training youths in the "arts and sciences" of intellectual knowledge, it does not lose its ancient prestige by becoming the home of an excellent trainer of men in those "arts and sciences" which pertain to good soldiership.

Early in this century there seems to have been a private school in South Attleborough, called a "Classical School," kept at one time by a Mr. Wheaton, a graduate of Brown University, the only fact found regarding him. The only fact known of the school is of its existence previous to 1820, as the author mentions his personal attendance at such a school and

one of his mates in it. It probably opened later than 1805, because previous to that time Rev. Jacob Ide came to the east village to Mr. Holman for instruction in the classics, a journey he would naturally have avoided had the necessary facilities offered themselves nearer his home. This "Classical School" probably had only a short existence.

Between 1832 and 1836 a private school was kept in North Attleborough by Miss Lurinda Forbush, daughter of the then pastor of the Baptist church. She was for some time previous to her death, which occurred a few years since, well known both throughout this State and the country as Mrs. Barrett, the faithful, devoted laborer in the temperance cause.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH ACADEMY.

In 1833 an association was formed for the purpose of founding an academy in the north part of the town. In that year Josiah Draper, Ira Richards, B. I. and H. N. Draper, Richard Robinson, and their associates purchased a tract of land of Samuel Guild on what is now the corner of Washington and Orne Streets, and here a building was soon erected. The contractor for the mason work was John Hamilton, and for the carpenter work Samuel Guild. The building was two stories high. The entire first floor and one half of the second were used for school purposes, and the remaining part of the upper story was occupied by Bristol Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. The lodge, as may be seen from its early records, purchased some shares in this academy association and were therefore to have the use of a certain portion of its building.

The first principal of the school was Isaac Perkins, who had previously held the same position over the once famous "Day's Academy" in Wrentham. His house stood on the site now occupied by Codding's Block. While he taught here he took pupils to board, and the house was known as the "school boarding house." He remained from the time the school opened until 1844, when he removed to Easton to take charge of a high school there. Under his administration the school here must have been in a very flourishing condition, as he sometimes had more than one assistant.

The next principal was John C. Boram, who came to the school from the East Attleborough Academy in February, 1845. His assistant was Henry F. Lane, who became the third principal in 1846 and remained some two or three years. In 1848 or 1849 Rev. J. D. Pierce succeeded him. In 1850 Mr. Pierce resigned the position and left town, having decided to resume his pastoral work, which had been laid aside for a time. He was succeeded by Henry Rice, who taught two years, and this ended the existence of the academy as an educational institution. The building remained unoccupied for several years, but not far from 1855 it was purchased by H. M. Richards, and he moved it to its present site, which is south of the former one and adjoining the Masonic Building. Mr. Henry L. Leach and others have

since occupied it as a hardware store and Holmes & Cheever as a grocery store, and it has also been occupied by other parties. Though it was used for its original purpose only a few years, numbers doubtless of the elders of the present generation in its vicinity can look back to pleasant schooldays passed within its walls, and among the recollections will come some perhaps not wholly confined to the cultivation of the mental and moral faculties. There was a good deal of a certain kind of physical education in the schools of the olden time, though its pursuit was not mentioned in the catalogues of studies; it, however, inured boys to some degree of a Spartan-like firmness in bearing pain and was not perhaps altogether useless in its results; and around every institution of learning there cluster memories of "fun and frolic" and of boy and girl good times the like of which never come to any one again, memories often cherished as the dearest which can be recalled in after life.

EAST ATTLEBOROUGH ACADEMY.

More than fifty years ago Mr. Nathaniel W. Sanford, of New York State, bought a large amount of land on the north side of North Main Street, from near where Dean Street is to the centre of the village, or about to the site of the Opera House. Not far from 1840 it would seem he must have made an offer of a gift or transfer of land under conditions to be used as the site of a building for higher educational purposes than the town schools then afforded. This was the land still known as the academy lot. In consequence of this offer an association was formed for the purpose of erecting a suitable building. The question of building in connection with the district arose, and among those chiefly interested in this matter Mr. John C. Dodge and Mr. Jonathan Bliss were resolutely opposed to such a course, while on the other hand Dr. Seba Carpenter and Mr. Amos Starkey were as decidedly in favor of joining with the district. It was finally decided, however, not to make the proposed union, but to erect a building by private subscription, the subscribers of course to become stockholders in the association. Mr. Joseph W. Capron was considerably interested in obtaining the necessary subscriptions, and Mr. John C. Dodge was among the largest contributors to this laudable enterprise. The original number of stockholders is not known, but there were 108 or 110 shares. These were sold for $12.50 each, and the money thus obtained built the academy. At a meeting held in January, 1842, the trustees reported that $1,455.55 had been expended and $1,417.05 subscribed, leaving a deficit of $38.50. They stated that a further subscription of $250 was necessary for the proper completion of the building, and this appears to have been granted to them by the association.

The building was completed and a school opened in 1842. It was an oblong square structure, two stories high, with a piazza in front supporting Grecian columns, like so many academies and dwelling-houses of its day, and contained two large halls with an entry to each. In its palmy days it

presented quite an imposing appearance, standing as it did in a conspicuous position in the centre of ample grassy grounds elevated considerably above and some distance back from the street since named for the then owner of the land. The academy had been finished and used for its legitimate purpose nearly a year before a deed of the land was given to the association. The following extracts are from a copy of the original deed: "Know all Men by these Presents, That I Nathaniel W. Sanford, City of Brooklyn, State of New York, Merchant, in consideration of three hundred dollars to me paid by Jonathan Crane, John C. Dodge, Jonathan Bliss, Samuel Carpenter, W. Blackinton, P. Savery, O. S. Balcom, John Daggett, and J. W. Capron, Trustees of Attleborough High School, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said Trustees of the Attleborough High School, or their successors in said Office, to hold in trust for the Proprietors of said High School while they maintain a building thereon for the purposes of education," a certain lot of land containing 250 rods, more or less, the bounds, etc., being given, and the owner repeats that the lot was given to these trustees and their successors "to hold in trust for the benefit of the Proprietors of said High School, while they occupy the same for the purposes of education, and no longer." The deed also provided that the proprietors should build and maintain all the fence adjoining Mr. Sanford's land so long as they should occupy the same under the deed, etc. This document was dated May 27, 1843, and was not recorded until December 23, 1859, subsequent to which time other deeds relating to the lot were passed. The reason for this manner and date of transfer cannot now be given nor would it be necessary to go into such details here; suffice it to say that the history of this piece of land has in nowise differed from that of other lands like it devoted for any time or in any way to public or semi-public purposes, its "metes and bounds" and rights of proprietorship having given rise to no end of discussion and controversy. Such lands everywhere, it would seem, yield abundant crops of nothing but unanswered if not unanswerable questions and fat lawyers' fees.

Something near a score of years ago the Academy Association voted to lease this property to District No. 18 for a term of ninety-nine years, thus giving authority to remove the old building from its position to make room for a new and large public schoolhouse on that site. In 1883, when districts were abolished, the town bought the new building with other district properties and also the rights of the association lease. [The academy's first move was to the west side of the lot, and in 1889 a second move was made to the east side, where it now stands (1891).] For a number of years two of the public schools have held their sessions in it. A straggling sort of existence is about all that is now claimed by the association, which results in the calling of meetings at rare intervals for the choice of officers, but little else remains to be done. The treasurer, John Thacher, has in his hands a fund of eight

or nine hundred dollars, the proceeds of the transfer of the property to the town, and the continuance of an organization will be necessary until some disposition is finally made of this sum.

The first teacher in the academy was Zwinglius Grover, and following him within the space of two and a half years were Rev. William M. Thayer, Philip C. Knapp, and John C. Boram, the latter going to North Attleborough. Leonard Walker, of Seekonk, had a select school here much later. He came here from Wrentham, having taught in the academy there. The teacher who remained the longest time, and who was probably the most successful, was James M. Bailey. Under him there was a very flourishing school, which continued for a number of years. He was a severe taskmaster, but he seemed to incite in his pupils a desire for knowledge and to imbue them with enthusiasm in the pursuit of it; and many no doubt in looking back will acknowledge that some at least of the success of their after years has been the result of the hard mental work he exacted of them. The school never attained the same prestige under any other instructor, and at times no school whatever was maintained in the building. At one time two of the districts maintained what was called the Union High School here, their pupils being admitted free of charge, but those who attended from other portions of the town were charged for tuition. Under this arrangement George Allen and a Mr. Thompson taught, and later J. O. Tiffany and Elliot Sanford. At another time George M. Read had a select school, and a Mr. Rice, assisted by one or two sons, also; and there were perhaps others before the building passed wholly into the hands of its district and finally the town.

There have been other small private schools at various times in town, but these have not lived long or had marked success, the excellent condition of the public schools having in recent years done away with the necessity for private schools of an intermediate or even higher grade. The only school of this kind in town at the present time is the one on South Main Street, Attleborough, which has been kept there for a number of years by Miss Lizzie Blanding. It is chiefly for quite small children.

Compared with the schools of a century ago, those of our day are models, it might almost be said, of perfection. It would seem that the highest limit of excellence in many respects had been nearly reached. Certainly the superiority of the present systems of instruction, as a whole, over previous ones has been thoroughly demonstrated. Scarcely too much can be said that is favorable to our methods, and comparatively little that is censurable. One question has, however, recently arisen, which is being more or less discussed, relating to the amount and variety of work attempted in the public schools. There is an opinion that our system as at present developed has in it a too decided forcing element, that the variety and extent of the work required in a given time maintain a constant pressure which, if not carefully regulated, will prove to be injurious to growing minds and bodies. This question is

applicable in some degree to teachers as well as pupils, because the acquirements demanded of them are becoming more and more extensive and comprehensive. If this opinion proves to be well founded and our common school system has any such defect in its construction, the bad results will of course manifest themselves unmistakably, and the appearance of real disease will be followed by the application of such measures as may be necessary to eradicate it; those in charge of the education of the masses will set themselves to search out the cause, and effect the cure, and our town will not be the last to take such remedies as may be prescribed. With all the ambitious strides forward in the cause of free and general education in our commonwealth Attleborough has kept pace, and she may look back over the work accomplished with much satisfaction; and justly she may to-day feel proud of her public schools, their buildings, their pupils, their teachers.[1]

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[1] Some interesting facts relating to one of the old church buildings and a district schoolhouse have recently come to the writer's knowledge. They are given here because they could not be placed where they rightfully belong, in the account of the South Baptist Church in the preceding chapter. When that building was taken down the great solid oak timbers and beams were purchased by the town and reincorporated into another building which stood very nearly on the site now occupied by Saint Stephen's Church, which was known as "the yellow schoolhouse." Subsequently this building was either torn down or removed bodily to a site near where the church formerly stood, and then it became "the red schoolhouse." When the districts were abolished and their property sold this little schoolhouse was purchased, moved across the road, and converted into a dwelling-house, which it still continues to be. It is the third house on the right side going from the Dodgeville and Hebronville Road to County Street, and passing by the "old Tiffany place."

CHAPTER XII.

MANUFACTURES. — THE BLOOMERY. — COTTON MANUFACTORIES, ETC.

AN interesting manufacture was established in this town previous to the Revolution. It was called in those days Bloomery, and consisted of furnaces for the manufacture of iron. Similar manufactories had been erected under the care of the Leonards, of Taunton, soon after the settlement of the country. Iron ore was found in the Old Colony in abundance, and the primeval forests of the country supplied cheap and abundant fuel for the use of such manufactories. Furnaces were founded in Taunton, Dighton, and Raynham, and the earliest in Braintree. The Leonards were ironmongers in Pontypool, Wales, before their emigration to New England, and were familiar with all the processes of the manufacture. In 1695 two of the name, Thomas and James, Jr., sons of the emigrant James, established the manufacture in Taunton North Purchase. in that part which is now Norton, on a stream called by them Chartley, and the furnaces were known as the Chartley Iron Works. These furnaces were run for over a hundred years, and by father and son through four generations. This establishment, which was near our territory, may have turned attention to this town as a suitable place for a similar establishment.

Be that as it may, a manufactory of this kind was established here, and located in that part of the village of East Attleborough called Mechanicsville, now Mechanics. Its history seems to have passed almost from the memory of the neighborhood. One building, however, remained for a long time after the discontinuance of the works, and is within the remembrance of a number of persons now living.

The first person who owned a forge on this spot, as far as known, was Robert Saunderson, a merchant of Boston. Previous to the existence of the iron works, a saw and grist mill had been standing on the premises. These works were occupied and carried on at one time by Thomas Baylies, probably as overseer or superintendent, as there is no evidence of ownership on his part. In a deed from John Sweet to Robert Saunderson of a small tract of one and one-half acres of land adjoining these premises and bearing date February 22, 1742, "in the sixteenth year of the king's reign," Saunderson is called "Forge Master," but there is no trace of the date of his original purchase of these premises and the establishment of the iron works.

Saunderson was said to be an English emigrant; possibly he had been connected with iron business in his native country and naturally turned his

attention to it in this. He built a dwelling-house, it is said after the English model of that day, where he lived in fashionable style. How successful the forge proved in his hands, or what was the cause of his selling it, does not transpire, but on June 26, 1742,[1] it passed from his hands into those of Robert Lightfoot, also a merchant of Boston, "for the sum of £2000 current money of the province." The property sold to him consisted of "about fifteen acres of land, including the Forge Pond, together with a forge containing three fires, and a cole house, Pigg house, two dwellings and granary, a stable on said premises standing, and all the utensils belonging to and proper for such a forge in good going order, the whole being under ye occupation of Thomas Baylies."

This seems to have been only a part of Saunderson's property in this place, for on July 1, 1750, he made a further purchase of John Sweet, a small tract of land containing about one fourth of an acre, for five shillings, and subsequent sales are also recorded.

"Robert Saunderson of Attleboro, to John Merrit of Providence, merchant, a certain tract of land in Attleborough, one half of a certain tract of land twenty acres, on Ten Mile River, together with one half of a forge, coal house, dwelling house, barn and sundry other buildings. April 25, 1752.
Witness
Henry Sweet. Before Dan'l Carpenter,
Jon. Capron. Justice of the Peace."

"Robert Saunderson, Iron Master of Attleboro' £300, to John Merrit, a certain tract adjoining my house lot, twenty five acres, another containing twenty four acres." This is dated April 25, 1752. Also a tract was sold containing sixty-five acres, and another containing thirteen acres, five tracts in the whole. Saunderson seems therefore to have retained a part interest in the works for about ten years after the sale to Lightfoot, but how long he continued his residence is not known. There is no further mention of him, but the facts above given are sufficient to show that he was a man of substance, and that the iron manufactory must probably have been a considerable one.

Lightfoot retained his ownership here about seventeen years, until 1759. Previous to that time, however, he had left town, and removed to Newport, R. I. He seems not to have attended personally to his business here, for it is supposed that Mr. Thomas Cobb was conducting the works, either by lease or as superintendent, as early as 1748, and the previous overseer, Thomas Baylies, may have continued until that time. It was probably through the

[1] The date of this transfer is also given as January 5, 1743. The Editor is unable to say which is the correct one.

influence of his father-in-law, James Leonard, Jr., of Norton, that Mr. Cobb turned his attention to this occupation, and later became the purchaser of these works.

May 22, 1759, Robert Lightfoot, of Newport, R. I., "Iron Master," conveyed to Thomas Cobb, of Taunton, these premises, or his share of them, which then included "fifteen acres of land, together with a forge, consisting of three fires, a coal house, three dwelling-houses, a stable, and all the other buildings standing on the said land; and all the utensils belonging to said forge and premises; all which premises aforesaid, with the appurtenances are to be taken and received by the said Thomas Cobb, in the perfect state, quality, and condition, they are now in." In addition to these properties, which are nearly identical with those sold by Saunderson to Lightfoot, there were added the "remains of an Air Furnace, and Boring Mill, with scales for weighing, and weights thereto belonging." This deed was dated May 22, "in the 32nd year of the reign of his most sacred majesty George the Second, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, and soforth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine." At the same time John Merrit, of Providence, and Margaret Merrit, his wife, convey their portion of this property to Mr. Cobb.

For six or seven years after these purchases Mr. Cobb evidently continued to conduct the works, but on January 22, 1765, it is recorded that he conveyed his entire property in this town to his son Jonathan Cobb. It is also evident that notwithstanding this transfer he continued to reside here and occupy the "mansion house" included in the conveyance, as it is known he was here in 1770. What this arrangement was can only be conjectured. Perhaps it was like some firms to-day, where one member supplies the capital and becomes a "silent partner," and the business is conducted in the other's name.

No record appears of the date of the sale of the property by Jonathan Cobb, but it was probably not far from 1800. The purchaser was Nathaniel Robinson, who worked the forge for a time, but finally converted the establishment into a blacksmith's shop, gristmill, etc. He sold either on July 26 or August 4, 1809, to Elijah Ingraham, of Pawtucket, Ezra and Jabel Ingraham, and Henry Sweet, of this town — it is said for the sum of $5,000. His property was described as "land, containing a dwelling-house, barn, corn-crib, grist and saw-mill, trip hammer shop, and all buildings thereon," and there was a reservation of a watering place "one rod wide," in favor of one Richardson.

The first cotton mill here was erected in 1811, and the first firm was INGRAHAM, RICHARDSON & Co. This firm also put up the first tenement house on the place. The members were Elijah and Ezra Ingraham, Abiathar Richardson, Jr., Henry Sweet, Moses Richardson, Daniel Cobb, and Josiah Whitaker. Daniel Cobb owned a one-sixteenth share, which he sold to

Whitaker September 3, 1821, and on June 18, 1821, Whitaker also purchased Jabel Ingraham's share of the property. Whitaker was from Providence.

The second firm was WHITAKER, RICHARDSON & Co. The next took the name of THE MECHANICS MANUFACTURING Co., the firm being Samuel and Jesse Carpenter. Some two years subsequent to the erection of this mill the factory just above on the river was built, and from the fact that the neighboring farmers had supplied a large proportion of the money for its construction it was called "The Farmers' Factory," though at the same time it was also known as "The Bliss Factory." The one of which we are writing had been called "The Ingraham and Richardson," and later "The Carpenter Factory," but mistakes occurred, names and factories frequently got "mixed," and therefore the name of "Mechanics" was given to this factory in order to clearly distinguish it from the other. The mistakes are easily accounted for by the fact that Samuel and Jesse Carpenter, Jonathan, George, and Zeba Bliss bought the two mills conjointly, and if they were called by the names of the owners, either might be meant and confusion ensue. A division was finally effected, and the Bliss brothers took the "Farmers'." This was not far from 1830, it is said, and then probably the name was chosen.

While owned and conducted by the last-named firm, the Mechanics establishment had about forty looms, ten hundred and thirty-six spindles, Patterson machinery, and manufactured annually of calico prints, No. 27, about 291,000 yards. The number of hands employed was thirty-eight, twenty-seven of them females. The building was eighty-four feet long by thirty-two wide, and three stories high. Connected with it were the old trip hammer shop and gristmill.

The village formerly constituted the school district No. 22, and in 1834 there were thirty-five scholars in families belonging to the establishment, and a school was kept from six to eight months during the year, with an average of twenty-four in attendance. Twenty-three years previous to that time the village numbered one child.

There were formerly many joint owners of this property, and for several years changes were frequent. Dates of some of these have been ascertained. April 1, 1825, Moses Richardson and Josiah Whitaker sold their shares to Jesse Carpenter, Samuel Carpenter, Jonathan, Zeba, and Martin Bliss, of this town, and Pretate Ingraham, of Pawtucket, and on July 16, of the same year, they bought Henry Sweet's share. August 12, 1829, Martin Bliss sold to Samuel Carpenter; June 30, 1831, Jesse Carpenter sold to him; and October 31, 1831, Jonathan and George Bliss also. February 17, 1834, Samuel Carpenter sold a portion of the property to Albert Carpenter, and on November 26, 1838, he bought A. A. Richardson's [1] share. Some time during these years an addition was built to the mill, and eight looms added. At

[1] Son of Abiathar Richardson, a previous owner.

length the company came to consist of Samuel and Albert Carpenter, and in 1851 they were obliged to suspend operations. Their affairs were placed in the hands of Robert Sherman, Esq., of Pawtucket, and the author of this work, the late John Daggett. They sold the property at auction, and S. and W. Foster, of Providence, became the purchasers.

They ran the mill until 1871, when a stock company was formed, which enlarged the mill to carry one hundred and fifty looms. The officers of this company were Samuel Foster, president, Chester A. Dresser, treasurer, and N. Hicks, agent; the latter assuming his position in December of that year. This corporation sold out in October, 1878, to the present owners, Foster & Nightingale. Since 1871 there have been several additions made to the mill, which is now three hundred and eighty feet long, forty-eight feet wide, and three stories high with an attic. It has three Ls, one eighty feet by forty-five, another sixty by thirty, and the third sixty-five by forty, each two stories high. There are now one hundred and seventy looms, and eight thousand and eight spindles, and about one hundred and forty hands are employed. There are 400,000 pounds of cotton consumed annually, and about 2,800,000 yards of cloth woven. Print cloths, shirting, twills, and crinkle, or seersucker, are made here. Connected with the mill are thirty-three tenements, a superintendent's house, two storehouses, a barn, office, etc. During Mr. Hicks' superintendence, which embraced the period of strikes, it is a remarkable fact that one never occurred here — a fact that speaks well for his management. He continued in charge for nearly sixteen years, and resigned in the early spring of 1887. He left town in April of that year, and at the same time his successor, Mr. Edward Chandler, took charge. He still retains the position.[1]

Statistics show that at the close of the year 1809 there were eighty-seven cotton mills in the United States. The prospects of prosperity were such that many more were being erected, and one result of the war of 1812 was to increase and extend this branch of manufactures. Our town had its share in this increase of the cotton industry. The BEAVER DAM FACTORY "which stood on the race-way of Whiting's pond," became a cotton mill in 1809. This mill was erected before 1800. It was at first in Wrentham, but the change in the town lines brought it within the limits of Attleborough. It was used as a nail factory for several years by George Blackinton and John Richardson, with probably John Fuller and William Blackinton — John Richardson being agent. The building was forty feet long, twenty feet wide, and one story high, and built of wood. All kinds of cut nails were made, and three or four heading tools and two cutting machines were run. The original owners sold to Captain Chester Bugbee and Mr. Haven.

[1] December 12, 1891, this mill was partially destroyed by fire, caused in the usual way — some accident to a kerosene lantern or lamp. It was soon rebuilt, but the owners have ceased operations, and it has been unoccupied for some time. The building is now partly brick. Rumors of its purchase and occupancy by jewelry firms have been heard, but no definite facts.

Captain Bugbee formed a company with John Richardson, George Blackinton, David Shephard, Ebenezer Draper, Lemuel May, and Samuel Tifft. They added a story to the mill and thirty feet in length at one end. Their manufactory had about twenty looms and five hundred spindles, and about a thousand yards of cloth were made per week. Captain Bugbee sold his interest to William Blackinton in 1812. The others continued some five years longer. The business was a prosperous one until the occurrence of a panic in 1817. After that the factory was purchased by Lemuel May and Daniel Cobb, who carried on the same business for about ten years, or until 1828. Early in that year Captain Bugbee and William Haven[1] owned and occupied it. Finally, in the summer of 1832, it was burned.

The FALLS FACTORY, so called, was built by THE FALLS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, which was incorporated February 13, 1813. There has been a mill on this spot almost since the time the history of the town, as a town, began. Joseph Daggett put up a "corn mill" here, at what exact date is not known, but it must have been previous to 1703. How long he held possession or to whom he sold the premises is not known. There was also a sawmill here very early. In the time of the Revolution the property was owned by Lieutenant Jonathan Stanley, an officer in the Continental Army. It descended to his son, Artemas Stanley, who, in 1809 or 1810, sold the privilege to the "Stock Company" in which Artemas, Stephen, and Jacob Stanley, Edward Richards, Otis Blackinton, and "Squire" Cheever were the largest stockholders. This company, as above stated, was incorporated in 1813. About that time, or a little later, Artemas Stanley withdrew from the company, and still later there were other changes; but beyond the fact itself little is known. Hon. Ebenezer Daggett was at one time a one-fourth owner in the company, but at what date cannot now be ascertained. The privilege here has about thirty feet fall and, as has been seen, was the first mill seat occupied in town.

The first factory was commenced in the fall of 1809. In February, 1811, after having been in operation only about a year, it was burned down but was immediately rebuilt. In this factory at first cotton yarn was spun and "the weaving was done on hand looms in neighboring families."[2] One of these old looms has been kept till the present time in the Stanley family — descendants of those of the name who were owners in the first cotton mill. A part of the original building still remains and is now in use as a jewelry shop. At one time there was a gristmill in the basement of this building,

[1] It would seem that Bugbee and Haven purchased for the second time, or that they had owned the property from 1809, and the purchase by May and Cobb included only the business, or still again that the original owners sold to Bugbee alone, and Haven became part owner only in 1828. The various accounts, which are probably taken from memory partly, seem to differ.

[2] This was the case with all the New England cotton mills up to 1814, their work being confined to the spinning of yarn, and all the weaving being done "in the homes of the people," on the ponderous hand looms of the day.

and it is said that the grinder took his toll in a rather dark corner of the apartment.

The business prospered and increased and about 1830 the establishment was employing forty hands, twenty-five of them females. It consumed about a hundred and fifty bales of New Orleans cotton per year, and manufactured 250,000 yards of cloth, light calico printing, No. 20. The building was of wood, seventy feet by thirty-four, and three stories high. A new reservoir was raised here in 1831, which covered an area of one hundred and twenty-five acres. Connected with this establishment were a machine shop, a saw-mill, a blacksmith's shop, and a gristmill. In addition to this factory, a new, handsome, and durable building made of stone procured in the neighborhood was erected in 1831. This was sixty-eight feet by thirty-eight, four stories high, with a projection of fifteen feet, and was filled with new and improved machinery. It was run by Jonathan and George Bliss, who, some two or three years later, employed about forty hands.

The Bliss brothers continued here a number of years. In 1849 H. N. and H. M. Daggett formed a partnership to enter the cotton manufacturing business. They first "bought out the Browns,"[1] who were then operating a part of this mill, and subsequently they purchased both the mill and the village. They continued here until 1855 or 1856, when H. M. Richards purchased the property by exchange. In 1857 he built the large stone mill standing on the site of the cotton mill, intending to use it as a jewelry manufactory, but owing to the depression in business at that time he was obliged to relinquish the idea. Not long after this time H. N. Daggett repurchased the property, and a few years later it was converted to its present use, that of a braid manufactory.

The FARMERS' FACTORY was established in 1813. The water privilege belonged to what is now known as the Babcock farm, which was then owned by William Richardson, and of him the Farmers' association made the purchase. Previous to this time it is said a nail factory and a gristmill stood on the borders of the pond, which was then only about half its present size. The association which built the mill was known as the "Farmers' Manu-

[1] These Browns were John and Henry, brothers. They were, it is said, masons by trade, and themselves built the first stone factory on this site, which they operated for a time. Of John an amusing story is told which is authentic, and may be found in Benedict's History of the Baptists. The incident occurred while the town constituted the two earliest parishes, the "First" and "Second," and the churches were supported by public taxes levied on all voters. Mr. Brown being a Baptist preferred to assist the church of his own faith and not the two Congregational churches for which the citizens or freemen were taxed. Upon one occasion, when asked by the proper authorities for the amount of his tax, he declined to pay it. He was told if he continued of that mind his property would be attached, but that did not move him. Not long after he started to drive to Providence on business. On reaching Oldtown he was told if he did not pay his dues his horse and wagon would be taken. "Very well," he replied, "you can take the horse and wagon; I sha'n't pay;" and he left them there and walked home. In due time they were sold at auction, and being of a mind to regain his property Mr. Brown sent a man to the sale to bid them in for him. We may hope his conscience was eased by this mode of procedure.

facturing Company." Not far from 1830 it came into the possession of the Bliss Brothers, — its purchase of the Farmers' Company has been previously referred to in the account of the Mechanics' mill, — and in 1834 it was owned by Jonathan and George Bliss, who carried on cotton manufacturing there. The number of hands employed at that time was twenty-three, of whom seventeen were females. The number of bales of New Orleans cotton consumed per year was about seventy-five, and the number of yards of cloth — calico printing No. 30 — manufactured 135,000. The privilege there has about thirteen feet fall.

The business after a time proved to be unremunerative and was abandoned, and in 1854 the property was sold at auction and struck off to H. M. Richards. About a year later it was purchased by H. N. and H. M. Daggett, by exchange of the Falls mill property. They made shoestrings at one time. Mr. H. N. Daggett occupied the mill for the making of certain kinds of braid, chiefly those for hoopskirts: and subsequently Mr. H. M. Daggett used it for the making of thread and knitting cotton.

For some years after the various forms of cotton manufacturing were given up the mill was used as an iron foundry. Bishop & Gavitt first occupied it for this purpose. They made Attleborough, Queen, Victory, and Eclectic ranges, New Golden Eagle furnaces, many kinds of hollow ware, and a new kind of hot-air furnace, invented by Mr. Gavitt. This firm remained several years, and were followed by Spicers, who carried on the same business. The building is at present unoccupied, and has been so for several years. It is owned by Mr. H. N. Daggett.[1]

The City Factory, situated on the Seven Mile River, the only cotton factory on the river, was built in 1813. It was incorporated by Act of Legislature, February 7, 1818, under the name of "The Attleborough City Manufacturing Company." The members at first were Joel Read, Lemuel May, Carlos Barrows, Squire French, Ebenezer and Nathaniel Allen. It was burned in 1826 and rebuilt immediately. The second building was forty feet by thirty-four and three stories high. The number of hands employed seven or eight years later was seventeen, of whom twelve were females. It ran seven hundred spindles and twenty looms, consumed fifty bales of New Orleans cotton, and produced about 1,800 yards of cloth per week, or at the rate of 93,600 yards annually. In connection with it was a machine shop which employed twelve workmen, and a grocery store. The firm owning and running the mill at this time was called Daniel Read & Co. Of the subsequent history of this mill property but little has been ascertained. It has

[1] Mr. Daggett purchased the property of his brother, H. M. Daggett, and sold it to the North Attleborough Steam and Electric Company, which used it as a power-house. January 2, 1894, the power-house was destroyed by fire. This was an addition to the old factory building proper, which latter escaped even serious damage from the fire, the greatest damage being sustained by the costly electric machinery. The mill has been destroyed, and a new power-house built.

passed through various hands and been used for various purposes. It is now occupied by the Nottingham Knitting Co., and owned by Mr. James Orr. Mr. Orr purchased the property about twenty years ago of Barton Cushman. During his ownership the mill was for a time run by his son-in-law, Mr. Henry May, and at one time Read & Griffin rented it and manufactured cotton yarns.

The knitting company have seven hand-machines, and their manufactures have consisted of ladies' jackets, leggings, and mittens. At present they are making only the latter, and about forty dozen per day. With one of these machines a man can turn out from ten to twelve dozen a day. Mr. Orr does also a dyeing and bleaching business, and about three thousand pounds of yarn pass through his hands each day. Orders for this work from all over the country are filled.

LANESVILLE FACTORY, situated on Abbott's Run, was built in 1826. It was seventy feet long, thirty-six wide, and sixty feet high, including four stories and the garret, and generally employed about 70 hands, of whom 30 were females. It consumed four bales of New Orleans cotton per week, and manufactured 400,000 yards of calico printing cloth, No. 25, per year. The mill ran two thousand spindles and fifty looms. The privilege had then about twelve feet fall. Connected with the mill were a gristmill, sawmill, machine-shop for repairs, and a variety store. In 1834 it was owned by Milton Barrows and others, and it is supposed that he built it. The establishment created around it a neat and handsome little village, like many of the New England factory villages.[1]

The first mill erected here was burned. The second one on the site was built about 1847, by John Kennedy, and in 1852 or 1853 it was purchased by Gideon L. Spencer, of Pawtucket, and was leased by him to various parties, as follows: from 1853 till 1856, to Jonathan Chace; from 1856 till 1862, to Timothy Earle and James H. Chace; from 1862 till 1864 to Timothy Earle and Rufus J. Stafford; from 1864 till 1867, to John F. Adams. On July 22, 1867, Mr. Adams purchased the estate. The mill and village are now called Adamsdale. In 1872 the owner enlarged the mill, about doubling its former capacity. On October 26, 1881, it was destroyed by fire. In 1882 the present mill was erected. Mr. Adams had previously manufactured print cloths and some yarn, but since the opening of the new building has confined himself entirely to the making of fine numbers of cotton yarns. The mill contains five thousand and forty spindles of ring

[1] This little stream, Abbott's Run, which rises and terminates in Cumberland, its whole course not being more than eight or nine miles, is able to furnish water-power for several factories and other mills. At the period when this work was first published there were four of the former. The first was Walcott's, in Cumberland; the next Lanesville, in Attleborough; the third, French's factory in Robin Hollow, so called; and the fourth Abbott's Run mills, which included two factories. On this stream above Lanesville were then also several gristmills, sawmills, machine shops, etc. On a branch of this stream near its junction with the Blackstone was Carpenter's factory.

frames and preparations, besides twisters, reels, chain and beam warpers, etc. About fifty hands are employed, and all but seven are of foreign birth or extraction. The consumption of cotton is about five hundred bales annually, and about one hundred and eighty thousand pounds of yarn are produced. These yarns are made in chain warps, skeins, or on beams, and are sold largely in the New York and Philadelphia markets.

Says a writer: "The embargo of 1807–8 benefited manufacturers at the expense of commerce, and much of the capital and effort engaged in the latter were directed to industrial channels." Its effect is proved by the statement made that previous to the embargo there were only fifteen cotton mills in the United States, and furthermore that, according to statistics, at the end of less than a year and a half that number had swelled to nearly a hundred. Of that number of establishments in operation our town had two, the Beaver Dam factory, before mentioned, and the one at Dodgeville.

DODGE'S FACTORY was established in 1809, by Ebenezer Tyler, Esq., of Pawtucket, Nehemiah Dodge, Peter Grinnell & Son, and Abner Daggett, of Providence, Elias Ingraham, Edward Richardson, and Daniel Babcock, of Attleborough, under the firm name of THE ATTLEBOROUGH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Ebenezer Tyler, Agent. The building at first was 88 feet by 31, and three stories high, including the basement story. During the war of 1812 and until the early part of the year 1815, it is said that "manufactures throughout the country continued to progress with unprecedented activity," and this mill was greatly benefited by this increase of business. In 1820 it contained thirteen hundred and twenty spindles, when Josiah Whitaker and John C. Dodge, of Providence, purchased one half of it. In the spring of 1812 the name was changed to that of the TYLER MANUFACTURING COMPANY under the agency of J. C. Dodge. In 1822 Nehemiah Dodge and John C. Dodge, his son, purchased the remainder of the factory, and continued the business under the style of N. & J. C. DODGE. In 1829 they built an addition to the factory of ninety-six feet, making it 184 feet by 31. It then contained four thousand spindles and ninety-two power looms, and gave employment to one hundred and thirty hands.

The author's words as written about 1834 are: "It is the largest establishment of the kind in town. The village, which is known by the name of Dodgeville, has been recently very much improved under the superintendence of the present agent. It contains a population of two hundred and sixty persons (all connected with the manufacturing establishment), one machine shop, one picker house, one store, one blacksmith's shop, four barns, and fifteen dwelling-houses, many of them new. It forms district No. 23, and has a new, commodious, and uncommonly well-finished school house, where a school is kept the greater part of the year." Some at least of all this is true at the present time. There is no larger establishment of the kind in

town, — the Hebron mill being only its equal, — the village is certainly pretty and well cared for under the present superintendence, and it has the new schoolhouse, of which may be said quite all that was said of its predecessor of fifty years ago; but most of the figures must be enlarged. The last-named partnership continued until about 1840, when the son purchased the father's interest and continued the business alone. He made further additions to the factory and increased the number of looms to one hundred and thirty-six. Subsequently reverses came, and in June, 1854, the property was sold at auction.

Messrs. B. B. and R. Knight became the purchasers and subsequently Stephen A. Knight, another brother, was admitted to the business. In 1870 these owners were incorporated, with a nominal capital of $100,000, under the name of HEBRON MANUFACTURING COMPANY, to which the mill here and at Hebronville belong. The mill building here, which is of wood, is three hundred and eighty feet long, sixty feet wide, and four stories high with two wings. It contains twenty-two thousand spindles, five hundred looms, and is run by both water and steam power. About two hundred and thirty hands are employed, sixty per cent. of whom are males. There are used here yearly 1,250,000 pounds of cotton and 2,500,000 yards of cloth are made. This is the well-known and favorite "Fruit of the Loom." There are a hundred tenements connected with the mill besides other buildings, including offices, etc. The number of spindles and looms has increased over fivefold since the date of the figures given above, and doubtless the consumption and production in a similar ratio, but the number of hands employed has not quite doubled, which shows the wonderful improvement in machinery during the past fifty years.

A short time since a fire broke out here which for a time threatened entire destruction to the mill and its contents. Owing to the vigorous efforts of Mr. Charles O. Merrill, the superintendent, which were ably seconded by the hands, who refrained from causing a panic and fought the fire, the danger was happily averted, and the damage done to the property was comparatively small. [Present superintendent (1893), Mr. W. H. Garner.]

The ATHERTON FACTORY was established about 1812 at what is now Hebronville, and was incorporated June 14, 1816, "for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woolen goods," by the name of THE ATHERTON MANUFACTURING COMPANY. The spot was anciently known as "Chaffee's Mills," where a sawmill and gristmill were early built. This establishment was owned and improved by several different companies. An addition was made to the factory in 1828, making the building ninety-eight by thirty-two feet. It had then sixteen hundred spindles and forty-two looms and employed sixty hands, forty of whom were females. The cloth manufactured was Nos. 26 and 28; about two hundred and fifty bales of New Orleans cotton were consumed per year, and about four hundred thousand yards of the print cloth made.

Thomas Harkness and Thomas J. Stead were the owners of this property at this time — successors to the Athertons. They were Quaker merchants of Providence. They were probably the ones who made the above-mentioned additions. They continued here until 1848, at which time the Knights purchased the property.

The present mill, built by the Knights, is of brick, and has been much enlarged since it was first erected. The main buildings, No. 1 and No. 2, are respectively one hundred and six and one hundred and twelve by fifty-four feet, with a wing one hundred and two by forty-six feet, and they are run by both steam and water power. There are connected with the establishment a boiler house, waste house, blacksmith's shop, picker, lapping and cloth rooms, offices, and seventy-six tenements. The figures given here are almost identical with those of Dodgeville: twenty-two thousand spindles, four hundred and ninety-eight looms, two hundred and thirty-seven employees, with about the same amount of cotton consumed annually — 1,250,000 pounds and 2,250,000 yards of cloth manufactured. Unlike the sister mill, however, in this one several kinds of cloth are made — chiefly five, four, and three leaf twills and plain sheetings. The superintendent here is Joseph H. Aull.

A large amount of business is done in these establishments, as may be seen. No approximation of the payrolls could be given, however, or of the value of the cloth made yearly, as both are fixed and changed by the fluctuations of the market, the employees being paid less or more according to the prices the cloths fetch in the market (1887). [Present superintendent (1893), Mr. Adam McWhinnie.]

BUTTON MANUFACTORIES.

The first actual manufacture of metal buttons in town was begun on a small scale by Edward Price, an emigrant from Birmingham, England, who came here and settled in 1793. He had been engaged in this business previous to his emigration, and brought machinery with him to this country. He carried on the work alone for a number of years, making principally the large outside buttons in fashion at that time. He occupied a small shop near the present residence of John T. Bates, and continued in the east part of the town until 1800, when he removed to North Attleborough. He continued the business there for a number of years with some success.

The second manufacture of metal buttons was commenced in 1812 by Colonel Obed and Otis Robinson. In the establishment of their business they were aided by the skill and experience of Mr. Price. This was the first company formed for this manufacture in the United States.

The manufacture of glass buttons was commenced in 1823 by Richard Robinson & Co., the firm consisting of Richard Robinson, Virgil Blackinton, and Willard Robinson, the ingenious machinery they used being chiefly of their own invention. The original company began the business on a small scale and met with many embarrassments and discouragements in its early

stages, but after becoming thoroughly established it began to increase, gradually at first, and finally became very extensive. Richard Robinson appears for a time to have had sole charge of the business, but whether the other partners had retired or what was the cause is not known. In 1826 a new company was formed under the same style of RICHARD ROBINSON & Co. for the term of five years, which expired in May, 1831.

At that time the firm of ROBINSON, JONES & Co. was formed, consisting of Richard and Willard Robinson, William H. Jones, and H. M. Draper. They commenced business in a small shop about 35 by 22 feet in size. An addition to this building had been made in the summer of 1826, and its machinery was carried by horse-power.

It was in the latter part of the year 1826 that the firm then conducting the business began to work on the gilt button, theirs being the first manufactory of that button in the country. In 1827 the company erected a brick factory two stories high, 60 feet long by 25 wide, and in 1828 the business required an addition of twenty-five feet in length. The machinery was carried by water power from the Ten Mile River, and the improvements in it were largely the result of Willard Robinson's inventive skill. The rolling mill connected with the establishment and built in 1822 was 60 feet by 25. In 1832 the new company built another shop of wood, one story high, and 60 feet by 25. The number of hands employed about that time was seventy-five, of whom thirty were females, and the number of buttons manufactured was about one hundred gross a day. At different times various kinds of buttons were produced. From 1826 to 1832 the common gilt button had been manufactured, which competed in a good degree with the English. Subsequent to 1832 the company made all the varieties which the market demanded — the common button, the navy, the military, the fancy, and sporting buttons, which were acknowledged superior to any others in the market in the beauty, finish, and durability of the work.

The following paragraphs are transcribed from the first edition of this book, printed in 1834: —

"This company has brought the manufacture of this article to such perfection, by various improvements and the skill of the workmen, as to compete fully with all others in the market whether domestic or foreign,— indeed if proper encouragement should be given by adequate protection to this branch of industry, it would soon be sufficient to supply all our home demands, and exclude the foreign entirely from our markets. This company have received all the contested premiums which have been offered by the Institutes of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston,— sometimes jointly with others. They have in their possession three medals (silver) and two diplomas.

"Several important improvements in the mode of manufacture have been made by one of the firm, Mr. Willard Robinson, for some of which patents have been secured.

"A common gilt button which appears when finished so simple, undergoes in the course of being manufactured over thirty different processes, some of which require great skill and experience. Each button is separately handled twenty-one times.

"Some of the females mentioned as connected with this establishment are employed principally in drying, sorting, papering and packing, and others in edging, cramping, placing the eye and preparing it for soldering. It furnishes for females a neat, agreeable and profitable occupation.

"The capital employed by this establishment is about $50,000. They use in gilding about $15,000 worth of pure gold generally obtained in its natural state; and consume forty tons of Lehigh coal annually.

"The number of tenements occupied by those employed in the factory is thirteen. Several new dwelling houses have been lately erected for their use.

"Agencies for the sale of this article have been established in all the principal cities of the Union. Some of the articles have been exported to foreign countries,— to South America, Hayti, and several of the West India islands. The button now manufactured is equal in every respect to the English, and perhaps superior in durability."

In 1835 the firm was employing about one hundred hands, and a pretty village of comfortable houses, named from the owners, Robinsonville, surrounded the factories. In 1843 the fashion in buttons changed, and the unrivaled success of this firm was brought to an end, and Mr. Willard Robinson, who was at that time conducting the business, was obliged to suspend operations, though that branch of the business consisting of army, navy, and police buttons was taken up not long after this time and is still continued near the original place of manufacture.

Mr. John Hatch, a mechanic employed by the Robinsons, had thought out a curious invention, a machine to make suspender buttons, and by the combined efforts of Mr. Willard Robinson and himself this machine was perfected. It was patented February 20, 1845, in Mr. Robinson's name. This was the justly famous "Button Machine." Six machines were made, and subsequently one of them was sent to Germany. No others have been made, and the five in town are the only ones of their special kind in existence in the country. They are automatic, cut and completely make the buttons from tin plates, each machine making about twenty-three buttons a minute, or 13,800 in a day of ten hours' length. These buttons came rapidly into use, the great advantage they possess in not cutting the thread used in fastening them being speedily recognized. They were made by millions, and used for various purposes. Large contracts were filled for the government during the Civil War.

Messrs. Robinson and Hatch became partners for the manufacture of these buttons. The patent and its extensions covered a period of twenty-one years, and for that length of time this special manufacture almost controlled the

market. Mr. Hatch died in 1849, only four years after the partnership was formed; but Mr. Robinson continued the business until his death, which occurred in 1879. It is now conducted by Arthur B. Robinson, who on March 1, 1880, bought the business of his father's estate, and carries it on under his own name, as the only manufacturer of "HATCH'S PATENT METALLIC PANTALOON BUTTONS." [Mr. Robinson has since died.]

These button machines are very curious and intricate in their construction and require the nicest and most careful adjustment to ensure perfect work. The adjustment being right, the work is excellent, and the result a button unequaled of its kind. The first machine made has been running over forty-five years, is running to-day, one of the best, if not the best, of the five. It is evidently a favorite with the long-time foreman of the shop, for he speaks of its capabilities with assurance and admiration. Various other trowsers buttons are made at the present time, and as they can be put into the market at a cheaper rate they have somewhat superseded these, but they do not compare with them in appearance or durability.

D. EVANS & Co. succeeded the Robinsons in the making of metal buttons, about 1848. This firm manufactures both plain and fancy army and navy buttons, all kinds of military and livery gilt and silver-plated buttons. During the war this was a very extensive and profitable business, as many large contracts were filled directly for the government, or for those supplying uniforms for our soldiers in both the army and navy. The business has always been conducted at Robinsonville, now a part of Attleborough Falls. So much competition has arisen in this as in other branches of manufacturing that the business here has been much reduced, and at present very little is being done.

Another manufactory of buttons was established in October, 1832, by a different firm, under the name of ROBINSON, HALL & Co. The shop was situated on the Seven Mile River, near Newell's Tavern in West Attleborough, and quite near the residence of Elisha G. May. The first shop was 30 feet by 20; another, built in 1833 or 1834, was 35 feet by 25, and three stories high. This establishment employed nineteen hands, of whom ten were females, and when the new one was completed some twenty-five to thirty were probably employed. This company made plain metal buttons, for both coats and vests, and of three different prices. They at one time produced about seventy-five gross per day, and subsequently probably this amount was increased.

This old shop and its predecessor had a varied experience. There was first of all a blacksmith's shop; this was converted into a cotton mill run by a Mr. Sibley, and then into a button factory. In one of these buildings Mr. Elisha G. May learned the button trade. That business here came to a close about fifty years ago, for it is said W. H. Robinson commenced manufacturing jewelry about 1837 in the shop the button-makers had built.

He was followed by others in the same business. J. H. Hodges and J. T. Bacon started in company here in 1843, and while here — among the first to do it — they "introduced power" into their works. Mr. Hodges, it is said, was the first in town to make brass jewelry and have it electro-plated. This firm was here until 1847. After this it was for a time a pattern-making establishment. At length it became a dyehouse and bleachery with quite a large business, and finally in 1881 or 1882 it was burned down. Whatever remnants of its ruins may have been visible were all washed away by the flood of 1886, which acted its wild will on this spot, changing its appearance so completely that not a trace of the old shop remains to mark its former site.

LEATHER MANUFACTORY.

In the centre of the village of South Attleborough, on the site now occupied by the leather works of WILLIAM COUPE & Co., the same kind of business, though of various branches, has been carried on for over a hundred years, a fact which can be stated of no other spot in town. So far as known, Isaac Draper was the first to have a tannery here; but the precise date of his starting it is not known. His son Ebenezer continued the business, then George and Halsey, grandsons, and finally Isaac Draper, a great-grandson and still living (in 1887), owned and conducted the concern. It began in a small and now considered a very old-fashioned way, but it was conducted with profit, a by no means exclusively old-fashioned consideration. "Many who pass the spot now, can remember the small building standing back from the road, and remember, too, the old horse that slowly moved the mill that ground and softened the hides." The tannery continued moderately prosperous for many years; but finally larger firms monopolized the business, and the Drapers were obliged to discontinue.

When they suspended business could not be positively ascertained or to whom they first transferred the property; but in 1865, which we think could not be very long subsequent to their giving up the business, the building was owned by Henry Knowles, who was doing a small business by himself. In September of that year William Coupe came from Pawtucket to do what is called "green shaving" for Mr. Knowles. He was a thorough and experienced workman, "had learned the tanning trade in all its branches," and from varied experience was ready to enter business and make it a success. About three weeks after coming to town he saw his opportunity, as he judged, made a proposition to take a share of the business here, which was accepted, and the firm of COUPE & KNOWLES was formed. This partnership continued only about three months, for Mr. Coupe was not satisfied with the then state of affairs. He made an offer to his partner to either buy or sell, which resulted in his becoming the buyer. His property was valued at $700, his capital was $1,500, and at the end of six months he had cleared $1,000.

Page's patent process for tanning leather appeared about this time, and Mr. Coupe bought a right to manufacture by it; but more capital was necessary, and in June, 1866, Edwin Evans, of Central Falls, became associated with him under the name of WILLIAM COUPE & Co. The needed assistance was thus obtained, and the business increased prosperously. An improvement on the Page patent was discovered and made by Mr. Coupe, which gave decided advantage to this firm; but competition was increasing as well as business, and further additions in the way of capital, enlarged and increased facilities, etc., became urgently necessary. Up to this time, about 1867 or 1868, the firm's goods had been sold "upon their merits"; that is, no efforts had been made to enlarge and extend its trade. Mr. Coupe determined to experiment in this direction, and he was so successful that the alterations which had been made in the works were at once proved to have been essential.

In the spring of 1869 Mr. Coupe again proposed to buy out his partner, and Mr. Evans concluded to sell; but this time. Mr. Coupe was not the purchaser. Edwin Burgess, of Providence, bought Mr. Evans' share of the business for $14,000, and the new firm was organized, the same name being retained. Both these present partners are men of enterprise, and despite the opposition of competition the firm has been continually prosperous. In July, 1872, the entire works were destroyed by fire, with a loss to the company of $6,000. The fire was hardly out when the process of rebuilding was begun. The new shop was one hundred and five by forty-five feet, and three stories high, and was very quickly ready with necessary machinery for business. In the autumn of 1878 an addition was made, and the building is now two hundred and ten feet by forty-five, three stories high, and has a wing forty feet square. There is an engine and boiler-house forty-four by thirty feet, separate from the main building. There is a fifty-horse-power Harris Corliss engine, which supplies the necessary power, and the boiler is large enough to furnish all the heat required for the entire building, including the dry room. This manufactory is furnished with a full set of belt-manufacturing machinery, several of the machines and their improvements being the result of Mr. Coupe's ingenuity and skill.

These works employ from fifty to sixty hands, and they prepare and make ready for the market in one form or another about 25,000 hides yearly. The greater proportion of these hides are made into lace leather, and this is one of the largest, if not the largest lace leather manufactory in America. It has been constantly growing and adding new departments of work for a number of years. Coupe's leather is known everywhere and is considered in the markets "equal to any and superior to most makes." The hides used here are of domestic and East India slaughter chiefly and must be put through several processes before they are ready for use, though these are fewer and simpler than by the old methods of preparation, owing to the

introduction of mechanical improvements. They are first thoroughly washed and cleaned, then put into a preparation of lime, which expands the skin and loosens the roots of the hairs so they can be easily removed; then the hides are bone dried, then "one tenth" moistened, and finally they are subjected to the rawhide machines to be softened, which operation makes them like buckskin. This process makes them altogether more flexible and durable than by the old "tanning" process. Machinery plays a far more important part now than it did by the old methods, and besides producing better results is a great economizer of time and labor, many less hands being required to accomplish the same amount of work than was formerly the case.

A list of the goods manufactured by this company is subjoined: Coupe's Patent Excelsior Raw Hide Belting of all widths from one to forty-eight inches, made under the "Schultz Patent"; Coupe's Patent Excelsior Raw Hide Lace Leather, prepared by a "mechanical process invented and patented by Mr. Coupe"; Coupe's Patent Excelsior Raw Hide Picker Leather, of four or five different weights; Excelsior Green Hide Picker Leather, also made by a process of Mr. Coupe's invention; Excelsior Tanned Lace Leather; Excelsior Tanned Picker Leather, with all lengths and kinds of straps; Coupe's Patent Excelsior Raw Hide Cut Lace, of six widths, from one fourth to three fourths of an inch; Excelsior Tanned Cut Lace in the same variety; and "Dry Flint Raw Hide" is furnished if desired. This firm are in receipt of testimonials from many customers in various parts of the country, which show the superiority of the goods they manufacture and the satisfaction these give to purchasers. This is not the only business done in the village of South Attleborough, but it is the largest and most extensive.

SHUTTLE MANUFACTORY.

Among the earlier manufactures was that of power-loom shuttles. This was commenced in the fall of 1827 by Colonel Willard Blackinton at the little village since often familiarly called Blackintonville and now forming a part of East Attleborough. A few years later Mr. Blackinton was employing twelve journeymen. About twenty-five dozen shuttles were produced per week in the establishment at the rate of $6 per dozen. He also supplied a large amount of shuttle mountings for the use of other shuttle makers. The whole amount of the manufactures of this establishment was then about $10,000 per annum. The work had an extensive sale throughout the United States — in Maryland, Georgia, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and in all the New England States. Agents for the sale of this article were established: at Pawtucket (then in Massachusetts), George Mumford; at North Adams, S. Burlingame; at Providence, R. I., Peter Grinnell & Son; at Norwich, Conn., Smith, Goddard & Coats; at New York City, C. N.

Mills; at Troy, N. Y., J. Merritt & Co.; at Philadelphia, Penn., W. Almond; at Baltimore, Md., Wells & Chace, etc.

Subsequently the business largely increased, and in 1842 a firm was organized under the name of W. BLACKINTON & SONS. It is said that when Mr. Blackinton first began this manufacture he employed but one man and the shuttles sold for a dollar apiece. Before the late war they were reduced as low as twenty-five cents apiece, but during that time the price advanced to $4.50 per dozen. At first the greater part of the work was done by hand and prices were therefore high; later, when machinery was introduced, work could be much more cheaply done. Most of the wood for the making of shuttles is persimmon or boxwood and comes from Georgia or North Carolina. They have also been made of apple-tree wood, but the quality of such is inferior. While in the beginning it required twelve men to make twenty-five dozen shuttles in a week, after machinery came into use fifteen men could turn out two hundred a day, or a hundred dozen in a week. The processes for making this article are varied and numerous.

Four of Mr. Blackinton's five sons were at one time together engaged in this business with their father. William was the first to retire from the firm to take up another occupation, and the death of Willard, Jr., in 1871 made a second change. John sold out his share of the business at the time of his father's death in 1877, and since that time Charles, the remaining brother, has carried on the business alone. There are constant orders, but they are much smaller than in former years.

THE WHITING MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

We must go back nearly a half century to find the embryo which has developed into this large interest. In 1840 Albert C. Tifft and William D. Whiting organized the firm of TIFFT & WHITING which was for many years well known and among the most prominent in town in the jewelry business. They began in a very small way in a room in a blacksmith's shop on the turnpike in North Attleborough. In eighteen months' time they needed more space, and therefore they erected a building which was 40 feet by 25, two stories high, and cost $800. They were by this time employing thirty or forty men. In 1847 still larger quarters were demanded by their business and they purchased the site and privilege of the old Beaver Dam factory for $2,000, and erected there a stone factory 90 feet by 40 and three stories high, which comprises a portion of the present company's building on the same spot. When work was commenced in this new factory seventy-five hands were employed and soon that number was doubled. Subsequently an addition of forty feet was made to the length of the factory and in one corner a strong stone safe was built, 8 feet by 12 and the entire height of the building, with doors in each story, and this was used as a place of secure deposit for goods.

This firm's manufacture was of gold goods — at first hearts and crosses and finger rings for both ladies and gentlemen. At the end of thirteen years, on January 1, 1853, Mr. Tifft sold out his interest to Mr. Whiting for nearly $100,000, so lucrative had the business become. TIFFT & WHITING were the first among the jewelers in town to open an office in New York, and they and Sackett, Davis & Potter, of Providence, took offices there side by side. Mr. Whiting continued for some years under his own name, and later the firm was W. D. WHITING & Co. The business became a very large one and offices were opened in Boston and Philadelphia in addition to the one in New York.

Not long after the stone building was completed and occupied, the manufacture of ladies' silver combs was commenced and to these were added other articles in silver, until finally this branch of the business became a large industry in itself and the result was the formation of THE WHITING MANUFACTURING COMPANY. This was accomplished by Mr. Whiting in 1866 and incorporated under the laws of the State of New York "for the manufacture of standard silver-ware." The capital at the organization was $100,000, and it was afterwards increased to $175,000. This company continued its manufacturing in the stone building erected by Tifft & Whiting, and for ten years they employed as many as one hundred and fifty hands. They produced the finest quality of solid silverware, and the amount made during some years is said to have been $1,000,000 in value.

The company was burned out in 1875 but they immediately rebuilt their factory and one of larger size. This building is the present one, and is 215 feet in length. January 1, 1876, the company opened a large manufactory in New York City, and its establishment is located at Broadway and Fourth streets there. It has also a large retail store in that city.

THE GOLD MEDAL BRAID COMPANY.

The manufacturing interest which this company represents is one of the largest in town outside that of jewelry, and its founder is one of the pioneers, if not the real founder, of this special branch of industry in the country — the production of "first class domestic braids." In 1815 hand-looms, up to that time universally used in the manufacture of cotton fabrics, began to be abandoned and replaced by power looms, and a few years later the braider was invented and introduced. The latter is said to be a "creation of the brain" of a native of this town whose name was Thorpe.[1]

After Mr. Daggett gave up the manufacture of cotton cloth he engaged in that of shoelacings, stearine candle-wickings, and later of covering hoop-

[1] He appears to have been quite an inventive genius. A valuable machine for making loom harnesses was also the product of his skill. This machine was in use for many years and probably may be so still.

skirt wires. He took up this business about 1855, making use of the American braiders invented by Thorpe, and kept on until about the time the war broke out, when he turned his attention temporarily to another occupation, though the idea of making braid was already beginning to work itself out in his mind. Up to this time — the commencement of the Civil War — no braids of good quality had been produced in the country. Those used were imported from England and Germany, and to the amount of over $3,000,000 worth yearly. The manufacturers who had attempted to make them in this country had found it almost impossible to place their goods on the market. Jobbers were very unwilling to purchase them, and in order to effect any sales the manufacturers were compelled to practise a deception, in making use of foreign tickets and labels. The war, however, cut off importations and then the demand came for domestic wares. Seeing that a great opportunity was offering itself, Mr. Daggett began to experiment and soon found himself able to produce a good braid. Some years previous to this time he had repurchased the Falls property, and during the first year of the war, or a little later, he formed a copartnership with John C. Morse, of Boston, placed his braiders in the stone mill, and commenced operations. Mr. Morse supplied material and attended to the sales, while Mr. Daggett supplied machinery and attended to the manufacture of the braids. The business soon became very successful and profitable, and at the close of the war this firm was largely supplying the consumers of the country. For eight years the profits were equally divided between the two partners. In 1869 Mr. Morse failed in his private business, which was that of a dry-goods jobber. Mr. Daggett found himself involved in this catastrophe and for a time, he feared, rather seriously; but he soon extricated himself from these difficulties and commenced business again.

During the same year he associated with himself Austin Dunham, of Hartford, Conn., and George S. Moulton, of New York. These two gentlemen furnished capital to the amount of $50,000, and at the end of four years, when the firm was dissolved, they received over $100,000, with seven per cent. interest on the capital besides — a fact which tells concisely yet completely what the success of this business had again been. At that time (1873) Mr. Daggett bought the entire interest, and remained sole owner and manager of the entire concern for seven years. In 1880 a stock company was formed, with the title of THE GOLD MEDAL BRAID CO. It has a capital of $65,000 which is divided among seven stockholders. Mr. Daggett has the largest interest, and is treasurer and manager. Mr. Harvey Clap is the only other person in town holding stock; the remaining five stockholders being residents of Boston and New York.

The mill is 160 feet long, 45 feet wide, and five stories high. It is run by both water and steam power. It is furnished with a turbine horizontal wheel eighteen inches in diameter, and of one hundred horse-power, and is lighted

by electricity made in the building. The office is a separate building. The employees number a hundred and twenty-five, and a large percentage are women. At one time, and for quite an extended period, Mr. Daggett was obliged to keep the mill running night and day, with two full sets of workmen, to enable him to fill his large orders. The company manufactures worsted dress braids, alpaca braids, mohair coat bindings, and silk, linen, and cotton braided fishlines. These are all of the best quality and have an extensive sale in all parts of the country. They give entire satisfaction to all consumers, the fishlines especially being pronounced of the very best in the market. This is a thoroughly well-established manufacture, and while it has had periods of remarkable prosperity, it has had no long periods of depression or dullness, but has at all times been steadily successful. The company has at present an annual business of about $250,000.

BOX MANUFACTORIES.

The manufacture of paper boxes was begun in town about thirty-six years ago, by Hartford Babcock. He commenced in Mansfield about 1851, and in the following year he came to this town. He had his place of business for a time in the Steam Power factory, but subsequently removed to the little shop which his father, Daniel Babcock, had used as a carpenter shop. It stood opposite his house, where it now stands, forming a portion of the present establishment, near the Farmers, on the road to the "city." In 1873 the business required more room than the small building afforded, and Mr. Babcock put up an addition to it. At first all the work was done by hand, even the cutting, the only machines used being bookbinders' shears. Now the entire process is performed by machinery, with the exception of the finishing, which here is still done by hand. The machines run by Mr. Babcock put the paper on to the outside of the boxes, and there are machines capable of doing the entire finishing, but they are very expensive, and the requirements of the business in this factory are not sufficient to warrant their purchase. Jewelers boxes in all sizes and styles have been and are still the specialty. Th business is carried on under the name of H. S. Babcock, though one of his sons, Abbott Babcock, is connected with it. It amounts to "about $2,000 worth per year." [Abbott Babcock has since purchased the business. The shop has recently been moved nearer the railroad, and stands nearly opposite the place where the "old company house" stood. Its former site and a considerable portion of the adjacent land has been purchased by Mr. William R. Cobb, and probably for residence purposes.]

C. W. Babcock, another son of H. S. Babcock, also took up this same business. He began February 1, 1879, on East Street, North Attleborough. He has since moved to No. 25 Elm Street, in the same village, and is now employing six hands. He makes all kinds and styles of paper boxes, and has a specialty for those used by jewelers.

CARRIAGE MANUFACTORIES.

September 22, 1858, John Stanley commenced the business of a carriage manufacturer. There was little to encourage him at first, but he finally succeeded in building up quite a large business. He built business and express wagons mainly, but gave attention also to the repairing and remodeling of other vehicles. He employed at times fourteen men, and used steam-power in his shop. This same line of business is carried on still at North Attleborough by W. H. Stanley, who makes a specialty also of jewelers' forging, and there are several shops of a similar nature in various parts of the town.

A number of years previous to the war Enoch Bailey established a carriage manufactory in East Attleborough, which came to be quite extensive, and handsome vehicles, chiefly light double carriages and buggies, were made there. Mr. Bailey continued for quite a period in the business, and several members of his family were during the time associated with him in one capacity or another. He built the large brick factory which E. A. Robinson now owns. This was, we think, the first large brick structure in the East village. The final result in this establishment was disaster financially, and the business was entirely closed up.

COFFIN TRIMMING MANUFACTORIES.

John R. Bronson and William D. Wilmarth formed a partnership October 15, 1864, as BRONSON & WILMARTH, to manufacture coffin trimmings. They commenced operations at North Attleborough, but shortly removed to the East village to a shop on County Street, by the bridge, where the business has continued ever since. On April 4, 1868, Dr. Bronson withdrew from the firm, and Mr. Wilmarth conducted the business in his own name until his death. March 6, 1882, the firm name of W. D. WILMARTH & Co. was assumed, the members being the heirs of William D. Wilmarth and Louis J. Lamb. The business grew to be quite large and continues to be so still. The firm employs twenty-five hands, and its payroll amounts to $1,250 a month. The manufacture consists of sheet-metal and gold and silver plated coffin trimmings.[1]

SMITH, CARPENTER & Co. established a similar business in 1870. They are at present in one of the Bates factories. They make sheet-metal coffin trimmings finished in gold, silver, or black enamel. The present members of this firm are Granville B. and Earl B. Smith.[2]

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[1] After the death of Mrs. Wilmarth, which occurred in October, 1893, Mr. Lamb sold his share in this business to the heirs of the estate, and it continues under the same firm name and under the management of two of the sons, Messrs. William H. and Henry D. Wilmarth.

[2] This business has recently been purchased by Mr. Louis J. Lamb. Mr. Earl Smith established a business of manufacturing electrical apparatus under the name of SMITH ELECTRIC COMPANY, building a shop on Sixth Street, but continued his interest in the above Company until its business was sold. In the autumn of 1893 he accepted a position in Lexington, this State.

THE ATTLEBOROUGH DYE WORKS.

The founder of these works was Robert Wolfenden, who was born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, December 12, 1824. Huddersfield is one of the chief seats of the woolen manufactures of England, and has also cotton factories, breweries, chemical works, and dye-houses. In one of the latter, and one of the largest dyeing and bleaching establishments in the country, he served an apprenticeship with one Samuel Routledge, at its expiration becoming the head dyer in the woolen and worsted department of the house, a position he retained until he came to this country.

He held several positions at first after his arrival, but finally settled with Hayden & Saunders, of Haydenville, this State, in a position which he held for five years. He then went to the Valley Worsted Mills, of Providence, R. I., where he remained about the same length of time, and when he left his position there was assumed by his oldest son, John W. Wolfenden.

At that time he came to this town, and on February 22, 1868, he started "The Attleborough Dye Works, Robert Wolfenden, Proprietor." He had doubtless at first the usual experience of persons starting a business, discouragements as well as encouragements meeting his efforts; but he was a persevering man, and his close and steady application to business and rule of sending out nothing but good work reaped their due reward, so that in a comparatively short time he had established an assured and profitable trade in his line. He increased his works from time to time as the exigencies of his business demanded, and at the end of ten years, on January 1, 1878, he associated with himself his two sons, John W. and Oscar, as equal partners. The firm name became R. WOLFENDEN & SONS, but no change in the works occurred at that time. The business of the new firm had soon increased so largely as to require the building of additions to the works, and in a short time they had become a thoroughly well-established house.

Mr. Robert Wolfenden, the senior partner, died on May 29, 1883. This caused no change in the firm name, the brothers continuing the business under the same title. During the autumn of that year a considerable portion of the old building was torn down, and a larger and more convenient one erected in the same place. A new eighty horse-power boiler was added to the works, which at that time had a capacity of about four thousand pounds a day. The work done includes the dyeing and bleaching of "woolen and worsted yarns, also braids, tapes, hosiery, plush, webbing, etc., for all purposes," the dyeing embracing all the new and fashionable colors which a constantly changing market demands.

In 1887 the capacity of the works amounted to some five thousand pounds per day. These include the main building, 150 feet long, 30 feet wide, and two stories high, of which the lower floor is used for preparing, dyeing, and bleaching, and the upper floor for stock, drying and packing. An addition to this main building contains boiler and pump room, and there are other

buildings, such as store and bleach houses, etc., with also upon the place a "well-supplied spring of the best water that can be produced for this special business." The establishment is situated just east of County Street, on the low lands near the Ten Mile River, about half a mile from the centre of the village of Attleborough. The business continues to be prosperous without abatement, and has at times required the employment of as many as twenty-one hands.

There is but one other similar establishment in town, that of James Orr, whose location is the old "City Factory."

SUSPENDER MANUFACTORY.

A few years ago, two enterprising young men in East Attleborough conceived the idea of starting an entirely new undertaking in town, and after several months of experimenting R. P. Marble and C. A. Smith decided to commence the manufacture of a new kind of suspender. They formed a copartnership under the name of THE DURABLE SUSPENDER COMPANY, and on March 1, 1886, began this business in their present location on the upper floor of "Bates' new shop." Some months previous, these gentlemen had taken out a patent on their contemplated article, "The Adjustable Durable Suspender," of which they are "the inventors, patentees, manufacturers and sole owners."

A description of this suspender, written by some one who had tried it and not found it "wanting," is quoted: —

The Durable consists of two ordinary web bands which are attached to nickel-plated trimmings, which consist of buckles in front and a buckle behind with strong, tasty chains of adjusted lengths and peculiar pattern, and a patented device in the form of a spring button loop. One of the main features wherein the Durables differ from all others is in the method of fastening in the back, without sewing or riveting, in such a way that the webs are adjustable and interchangeable. This can be said of no other suspender in the world, and these points alone make it worth the cost. The webs are connected at the back by a specially designed buckle, and cannot possibly pull apart, and the angle at which they are adjusted can be changed to fit any width of shoulders. There are other advantages over suspenders of familiar pattern and we think they will be readily seen and admitted by all who will carefully examine the Durable. They are easily buttoned and unbuttoned; they will not soil the clothing, the tempered loops have a peculiar elasticity which takes the strain from the buttons in cases of sudden stooping or any unusual movement. The webs can be reversed or changed if desired. The trimmings can quickly and easily be adjusted to the webs of old suspenders. They feel more comfortable than the old styles. For laboring men who have to buy suspenders frequently, it will be a real economy to purchase the Durable, while those who are looking only to style or comfort, will find their wants fully met by its use. The chains are of a style that fairly entitles them to the name Durable. The buttoning loops are made of tempered wire which is cut the desired lengths by a machine, and then bent just the required shape by another ingenious machine constructed particularly for the purpose. At each end of the loops which extend upwards is a small ball, which prevents the points, which would otherwise be exposed, from wearing the clothing. They also serve as convenient helpers in buttoning and unbuttoning. The webs are made especially for the company, which at present is manufacturing only the trimmings.[1]

[1] From an article in *The Attleboro' Advocate*.

These suspenders are more expensive to make than any others, because unlike others the trimmings and not the webs are the most costly portion. No iron or steel is used in their composition, and in their manufacture skilled labor is absolutely necessary and to five times the amount required in the making of ordinary trimmings; but as they are adjustable to any web "in one moment's time and with no appliances except the fingers," they would be from this fact alone, if from no other, a superior article. They are made in three grades; namely, No. 1 at $4.50 a dozen, which is a corded web of twenty-three strands of rubber, in white modes and fancy stripes, also in "Jacquard" loom web; No. 2 at $6 a dozen, also a fine corded web of twenty-eight strands of rubber of different patterns; and No. 3, a finer web of imported stock, with thirty-six strands of rubber and six different patterns, sold for $7 a dozen. These latter retail for a dollar a pair, and this enables the dealer to make an excellent profit. For a still higher price — $8 a dozen — the company will furnish this article with "a hand made, curb link chain, with every link hard soldered." In this the chain is made "exactly like the best watch chains, and is very finely finished."

Like most inventions "of merit," this at first met with great opposition, but the members of the firm had enough of the necessary perseverance, and what is now termed "push," to overcome the obstacles in their way, and they have already reached a position which assures them an established reputation and success. They have twice been obliged to increase their facilities for production, and orders are increasing in a highly satisfactory manner. A patent has been taken out in England, as well as in this country, and orders from there have been received. These have also come from France, South America, Mexico, West Indies, and Canada. As yet the manufacture has not become very generally known in the Western and Southern States, but it doubtless soon will be, for under date of December, 1887, one of the partners writes: "We have to-day received orders from dealers in Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, Maine, New York, and last but not least our own Old Bay State." At the time of the above writing the company were engaged in putting new machinery into their shop, and they expected after January 1, 1888, to be able to turn out 2,000 dozen pairs of suspenders per month.

It is needless to enlarge upon so patent a fact as the great importance of introducing, to at least some extent, new interests requiring skilled artisans into the now two towns of Attleborough. The success which has so speedily followed the commendable efforts of this firm may and should stimulate and encourage other young men to make similar efforts, though in varied directions, for in that way only does it seem possible that the future prosperity of the two towns, in so many ways still one, can be assured to a degree in any way commensurate with the remarkable prosperity of the past.

There has always been a variety of manufacturing carried on in town on a

larger or smaller scale, but many of the establishments have had only a brief existence, and have then disappeared entirely — in the case of the older ones leaving little more than a memory behind. About 1800 there was a small shop on the site later occupied by the Union House, and here twelve Scotchmen conducted a cotton-weaving business. They made apron checks and bedticking on hand-looms. This must have been the earliest manufactory of cotton goods in town. These men were all from Scotland or the north of Ireland; one of them, William Riley, father of James Riley, of North Attleborough, and another, Hugh MacPherson, father of Daniel MacPherson and grandfather of the late Daniel Pherson, as the name has latterly been called.

There have been at least four nail factories, and all on the Ten Mile River, and it would seem all in operation at the beginning of this century. There was one in Plainville, — then a part of Attleborough, — the Beaver Dam factory already mentioned; one at the Falls, and the other the Deantown factory where Ephraim and Asa Dean made all kinds of nails. From, perhaps, 1803 or 1804 until about seven or eight years later, these appear to have been the industries of the town, and the manufacture of nails became a considerable one. Ephraim and Asa Dean built the factory at Deantown, and after it passed out of their possession it was converted into a cotton mill by the late Dr. Alfred Martin. Still later H. M. Daggett rented it for the purpose of making yarn and knitting cotton, and after that it remained unoccupied as a manufactory for some years. Recently it has been occupied by O. P. Richardson & Co., manufacturers of shuttle iron. Mr. Richardson and his son, O. P. Richardson, Jr., composed this firm, which was engaged in the business up to the time of the former's death. The business was never a large one. [Its latest use has been that of a public laundry. The once attractive little village surrounding it has almost passed out of existence. The old mill tenement house, the old Barney house, and recently the Dorrance Dean house have been destroyed by fire. The picturesque prettiness of the place is now gone, and of its former oldtime peaceful beauty little but unsightly ruins remain.]

It is said the nail factory at the Falls stood near the upper end of the pond. At the same place gunbarrels used to be polished, and among those said to be interested in that work were Sylvester Everett, Jonas and James Richardson, and Dr. Thomas Stanley. There was formerly a tannery on the north side of Elm Street in North Attleborough, and the vats occupied the low grounds near, by the river. The exact date of its existence is not known, or anything of the amount of business it had. Near this tannery was "the first shop built on the company's privileges," and it was used by David Whiting for turning hubs and wheels.

Some distance farther down Elm Street iron ore was found and quarried very early in this century. It was carried to some adjoining town to be

smelted, but to which one is not told. This industry did not continue long, and nothing seems to be known regarding its size. Combs have been made at times, the largest manufacturers having been TIFFT & WHITING. In addition to their jewelry business E. I. RICHARDS & CO. made hooks and eyes for a number of years. This became an occupation of considerable amount and gave employment to many girls and women in fastening the hooks and eyes upon the cards. These were carried out from the shop and distributed in the houses about the town, and the work was done there. For a long time many ladies and some children were very industrious braiders of straw, and some of them sewers also. This work was in some instances a means of livelihood and in many others as an adjunct to the daily household labor (for it was done in the homes) it proved a convenient and agreeable method of earning "pin money." Straw manufacturing was also carried on in East Attleborough in what used to be called the "Straw-shop," now Briggs' Hotel, on South Main Street, and in another shop across the railroad. It continued for some years and for a time was quite flourishing, but ended in failure.

Bricks have been made in several places, it is said. From 1860 to 1870 Joseph Eldredge carried on that business, making some two hundred thousand annually. They could scarcely have found a very ready sale in town, as at that time there were very few buildings constructed of brick, and the number is very limited even now. The manufacture of glass buttons and steps was commenced about 1828 by Richard Everett, and a few years later he was employing four hands. Virgil Blackinton was also manufacturing glass steps at the same time and employed two hands. Jesse F. Richards and Edwin Ellis about the same time began the business of making brass butts and castings and other kinds of brass works. How long any of these establishments continued is not known. For some years hoopskirts were made in East Attleborough by Ira M. Conant in a wooden building on Railroad Avenue, near where the old depot stood. This was at a comparatively recent time, probably "about war times" or later.

There are other industries represented in town, but those mentioned comprise the largest. There are fifteen or sixteen blacksmiths, a brush and a bracket manufactory, one confectioner, and one cigar-maker. There are two gristmills and a grain elevator, four harness and saddle makers, two makers of knit goods, three machinery manufacturers, — all makers of jewelers' tools, — two picture-frame makers, three printing and publishing houses, two wood-turners, one washing-machine maker, three cider and vinegar makers, two of which make native wines from the grapes of their own vineyards, and two establishments where monumental and cemetery work is done. The largest of these wine and cider makers are H. K. W. Allen and G. W. and A. L. Allen, of the western part of the town. The former has been engaged in this business for many years, and his is one of

considerable extent. He has also paid special attention to the making of communion wine. This is sent to mission stations in Egypt, British India, China, etc. There is an agency at the Board of Foreign Missions in Tremont Temple, Boston, and another in Providence. This is called an unfermented wine, and Mr. Allen makes also a fermented wine. This is much used in sickness. A silver medal and diploma were awarded him at the Farmers and Mechanics Association fair in October, 1883. Mr. Allen had at one time quite an extensive vineyard; but a few years since he lost some thousands of his vines, and these have not been replaced. He has never made over seventy whiskey barrels full of wine in one year, and recently he has been making about half as much and about one half as much (or a little more) of the unfermented wine as of the other. This business has long been locally very well known.

The mere mention of the smaller enterprises serves to show that some of our citizens are kept occupied in making other things besides jewelry, and recent efforts to introduce still further varieties of occupation on a larger scale than for some time previous give fair promise for the future should the chief business begin to show signs of failure. Although jewelry is beyond all comparison *the* industry of our town, the scanty record here given is sufficient to show that other and large industries have had and still have a firm foothold here, and without that immense business by which we are chiefly distinguished the manufactures of the town could not be called wholly unimportant.

CHAPTER XIII.

MANUFACTURES, CONTINUED. — JEWELRY MANUFACTORIES, ETC.

THIS great enterprise, which has assumed enormous proportions and given Attleborough a world-wide reputation, had its commencement with the very earliest manufactures in town. It was in the year 1780 that a Frenchman began to make jewelry in North Attleborough, but of what kind tradition appears to say nothing. His factory was the brick forge which stood on the site of the old shop on the premises of the late Jesse F. Richards. This little factory, where, in connection with jewelry, it is said he made brass butts, was taken down in 1810. Very little is known of this Frenchman, not even his name. He was called "the foreigner," but for what reason no one seems to know. It must have been his universal title, since his name has been entirely forgotten, and very probably was bestowed upon him because that name was difficult of pronunciation. The existence at that time of a strong sympathy between America and France, which nation was deeply interested in the birth of our new republic, would naturally prevent any tinge of opprobrium from being attached to the epithet, as has been the case in many instances. This man was perhaps with one exception the only "alien" in town at that period, the other being the Frenchman Richaud, living in South Attleborough.

To this no doubt deft and clever stranger we must look as the founder of our greatest industry. His hand planted the tiny seed which grew and multiplied until it has become a grove of giant trees, with wide extending branches whose blossoms adorn not only unnumbered thousands in our own land, but in many other lands as well. This business is the bone and sinew of our town's growth, the backbone of her prosperity, and in the century of its existence the one small manufactory has increased more than a hundredfold. As some one suggests, Lafayette's espousal of the cause of the colonies may have turned the attention of his fellow-countrymen to America, for it was during the days of the Revolution that the Frenchman came here and began to work. For the first fifty years the progress of the industry thus begun was very slow. Its marvelously rapid growth has been in the second fifty years, and notably during the latter half of the second half-century.

To show what advancement had been made at the end of fifty years, the account prepared for the author's previous work on the town is transcribed verbatim: —

"MANUFACTORY OF JEWELRY — *Draper, Tifft & Co.* — commenced in 1821. They now manufacture, annually, to the amount of $15–20,000 worth.

They employ from 12 to 15 hands — part of them females. The building occupied for this business is two stories high, 40 feet by 22. Sales of the manufacture are made principally at New York and Philadelphia. They formerly carried on to a large amount the manufacture of Patent Brass Door Ketches or Fasteners. The establishment is located on the Turnpike near Hatch's Hotel.

"Hervey M. Richards has established a Jewelry Shop near the Union House on the Turnpike, — manufactures a variety of articles, watch keys, finger rings, guard chains, breast pins, &c. — commenced in 1831 — employs 12 hands — 3 females. — Amount of manufacture about $8,000 per year. The building is 2 stories, 32 feet by 16. He rents another shop on the same road, which employs 5 workmen.

"Samuel Phillips' Jewelry Shop, near the city, — employs about 6 hands — manufactures the usual variety. Alfred Barrows has also established a work-shop of the same kind.

"Richards & Price have a Jewelry Shop — commenced in 1830 — employs 6 hands — situated between the Turnpike and the Falls Factory.

"Dennis Everett's Jewelry Shop — commenced business in 1831 — employs now 4 hands."

After the Frenchman the first firm was formed — that of Colonel Obed Robinson, at Robinsonville. His shop was the first one ever erected expressly for this manufacture in town. It was "the little yellow house," still remembered by many, which stood opposite the present residence of Mr. R. F. Simmons, and is now remodeled into a French-roofed cottage. There seem to have been several members in this firm, but whether all at the same time is not known. Besides Obed Robinson there were Otis Robinson, his brother, Milton Barrows, grandfather of Mr. H. F. Barrows, and Mark Baldwin, — prominent in the famous rifle corps, — who were connected with it. This firm commenced operations about 1807, and made chiefly carbon jewelry. In its employ was one David Brown, who was called "a skilled workman in that art." Perhaps he had been taught the trade by "the foreigner."

The next establishment was that of Manning Richards, who, about 1810, built a little shop on his farm "at the head of the Cumberland Road." He conducted business alone, and was successful for a number of years.

Next comes the firm of DRAPER, TIFFT & Co. The original members were Josiah Draper, John Tifft, and Ira Richards, and as has been stated the firm was formed in 1821. The account above given shows that in a few years quite a degree of success had been attained. During the year 1834 Ira Richards withdrew from this firm to form another with his son and nephew, and he was succeeded by George Horr. The same name continued until 1850. In that year Mr. Horr withdrew, and Joseph T. Bacon took his place. The name was then changed to DRAPER, TIFFT & BACON. In 1851 John

Tifft died, and soon after a new firm was formed with Frank S. Draper, Frank L. Tifft, and James D. Lincoln as partners, under the original name of DRAPER, TIFFT & Co. The next change was in 1859, when F. S. Draper went out of the firm and the name became LINCOLN, TIFFT & BACON. Previous to this time the business had been moved to Plainville. In 1862 in order the better to comply with the internal revenue laws, the Plainville name was changed to J. F. BACON & Co., and the New York name became LINCOLN, TIFFT & Co. This arrangement continued until 1877, when Frank L. Tifft died. No change of names was effected, however, until three years later, in 1880, when Harland G. Bacon, the son of J. T. Bacon, and Dan. Schofield, formerly salesman in the New York office, were admitted to the firm, which then assumed the name of LINCOLN, BACON & Co. This name it still retains, and continues to conduct its business in Plainville.

The original firm was the first notable one in town, and it became one of the largest, if not the very largest of its day, in the country. It may be said to have had an existence of fifty-six years, from 1821 till 1877, when, by the death of Mr. Frank Tifft, the last representative of the original founders was removed, though, as has been seen, his name, one of the old familiar ones, was retained until some years later.

RICHARDS & PRICE, already mentioned, was the next firm to organize. The members were Calvin Richards and George Price. They continued but a few years. The shop they built in 1830, opposite the residence of Mr. Price, was a very large one for that date, and was the third one erected in town. S. S. Daggett was a later partner, but the old firm entirely ceased to exist with the retirement of Mr. Price in 1856. Mr. Richards after his retirement built a shop where Mr. Abiel Codding now lives, and continued there in the same business.

Next in date was Dennis Everett, who began in 1831 at South Attleborough, with Otis Stanley for a partner. They made watchchains and keys. After a short time this firm removed to North Attleborough, and took a room in Calvin Richards' shop. When Mr. Stanley retired is not known, but about 1836 Mr. Everett built a shop for himself, had Isaac Bailey for a partner for a time, and finally changed his business to the making of eye-protectors, and glass steps for cotton frames. This business has no representative in existence.

E. IRA RICHARDS & Co. is the oldest firm in town, though it exists at present under a name of comparatively recent date. It began in 1833, when Hervey M. and Edmund Ira Richards formed a partnership under the name of H. M. & E. I. RICHARDS. In 1834 the name was changed to IRA RICHARDS & Co. by the entrance of Ira Richards. In 1836 H. M. Richards retired, and George Morse and Virgil Draper became members, the name remaining unchanged. In 1841 the two last-named gentlemen withdrew, and Abiel Codding entered the firm. The original building erected by this firm

not long after its establishment stood about where the present one stands. The second one was built on to the first about forty years ago, and the present one, probably not far from twenty years old, is as large as any, if not the largest, in town.

In 1845, on the death of Mr. Ira Richards, J. D. Richards became partner in his father's place. This firm, consisting of the Richards brothers and Mr. Codding, continued unchanged for thirty years, and it was during their copartnership that the great business of the concern was built up. In 1875 this firm was dissolved, but a new one was at once organized, consisting of E. I. Richards. F. B. and Charles I. Richards, and E. I. Richards, Jr., under the name of E. IRA RICHARDS & Co. Since the death of Ira Richards the familiar name has always been, and often is still, E. I. RICHARDS & Co., though the present title gives the second name of the former chief partner in full.

In 1882 C. I. Richards retired and the death of Mr. E. Ira Richards occurred. In 1883 Lucy M. Richards became a member of the firm. In 1887 F. B. Richards retired, and the firm now comprises E. Ira and Lucy M. Richards. Five of the gentlemen formerly connected with this firm are dead; namely, Messrs. Ira, H. M., and E. I. Richards, and Messrs. Morse and Draper. [Mrs. Richards has since died.]

This company has always conducted its manufacturing upon the same spot in North Attleborough. It has offices in New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. It has had no specialties, but since becoming thoroughly established has manufactured a complete line of rolled plated jewelry. For many years the firm was the largest in town and for a long period far outranked all others, as it employed an average of from two hundred to two hundred and twenty-five hands. These figures refer to a period when firms were much fewer in number than they are now; and they are, therefore, comparatively much larger, though even at the present time there are but one or two establishments that give employment to so large a number of workmen. The superiority of its goods is unquestionable, and combining variety and good quality these have never been excelled in any of our manufactories. From the very first it has been prosperous, its first successes almost unprecedented, and its prosperity has continued through fifty years without serious interruptions. Its widespread and high reputation has been well earned; it holds a most important place in the business history of this town, and so long as jewelry is connected with the name of Attleborough, so long will the fame of "E. I. RICHARDS & Co." be remembered.

STEPHEN RICHARDSON & Co. In 1836 or 1837 this firm was organized, Stephen Richardson and Abiel Codding being its members. Their first shop was a little building on the south side of Elm Street, near the Ten Mile River, put up by Mr. Richardson at a cost of $400, and they employed ten hands. Mr. Codding left the firm in 1839. In 1840 Mr. Richardson

moved to Calvin Richards' shop, on the site where Mr. Codding's house now stands, and the working force was doubled. Three years later he made another move: to DRAPER, TIFFT & Co.'s shop near Hatch's tavern. Previous to this removal David Capron had become his partner under the style of STEPHEN RICHARDSON & Co.; but at this time he retired and Samuel R. Miller took his place, and the name was changed to RICHARDSON & MILLER.

At that period it was the custom for someone to take the goods manufactured and travel about the country to sell them and this firm was very successful in that way. Their quarters soon became too limited and in 1848 Mr. Richardson built a new shop 40 feet by 30, and two stories high. Here forty hands were employed and the business done became so large as to soon demand a doubling of facilities. Many of the firms used to exhibit their goods in the rooms of the old Western Hotel in New York, but in 1854 Mr. Miller opened an office for this one at No. 21 Maiden Lane. He withdrew in 1856 and Mr. Richardson was alone for two years or more. In 1859 his son Clarence H. Richardson became his partner, and the name became STEPHEN RICHARDSON & SON. The New York office was changed to No. 177 Broadway and one opened in Philadelphia.

In 1870 the factory was burned and another built immediately and much larger, where a hundred and thirty-five hands were employed. A large trade with Cuban and European ports was established. Mr. Richardson's death occurred in 1877 and since that time the son has continued the business under the same name. In 1882 the firm was again burned out and room for the manufacturing was found in Whiting's building. For about twenty-five years this company has made a great variety of articles — chains and novelties in gold, silver, copper, or brass — anything the market called for. This was the first of our firms to ship goods to Europe and a few years ago it began to ship to Japan, the first and only one in town to send to that country. This has been a very large and exceptionally successful establishment. [Has passed out of existence.]

About 1837 W. H. Robinson began his career in this vocation in the old button shop at West Attleborough. During the same year he built a brick shop upon his own farm in that vicinity. S. L. Daggett had become a partner at that time, and the firm name was DAGGETT & ROBINSON. When Mr. Daggett retired is not known, but William Guild became a member in 1840 and in 1850 the name became ROBINSON & Co. This firm at one time had quite a large business and employed as many as forty hands. Mr. Robinson remained a partner until about the time of his death. In 1868 the firm consisted of his three sons, D. H., E. A., and W. H. Robinson, Jr.

Edwin A. Robinson retired in 1870 and went to Providence. He came from there to East Attleborough in 1875, bought "the Bailey property,"

and built a large brick factory five stories high, including the basement. He occupies one floor himself and makes a variety of specialties, such as plated rings, chains, collar buttons, scarfpins, studs, lacepins, etc. He has within a few years built another large factory.

Daniel H. Robinson still continues the manufactory under the old name of ROBINSON & Co., and in the same brick shop built by his father, one of the oldest in town. His specialty is fine "foil stone" scarfpins, studs, and drops.

HAYWARD & BRIGGS, now HAYWARD & SWEET. This is one of the oldest companies extant. The senior member of the former firm, the late Charles E. Hayward, was among the pioneers in jewelry manufacturing in East Attleborough. In 1851 he came from North Attleborough to the Mechanics, where with Archibald Thompson, S. M. Lewis, and S. N. Carpenter he started a company under the name of THOMPSON, HAYWARD & Co. This was after the Carpenters had suspended operations in the cotton mill and while their affairs were in process of settlement. The two last-named gentlemen retired in about four years and Mr. Thompson at the same time or soon after, for in 1855 Mr. Hayward associated with himself Mr. Jonathan Briggs, they together forming the well-known firm of HAYWARD & BRIGGS, the name and partnership continuing for thirty years.

In 1859 the firm was burned out in the Steam Power building fire. This fire, which burned four shops, occurred in the night, and before morning Mr. Hayward had hired a place to which he removed the business temporarily, until the new Steam Power Company's building, immediately erected, was in readiness. In 1873 the firm erected the large shop known as Hayward's building, a part of which they occupied, and where their successors still remain. No firm in town ever gained a better reputation than this one, and that good reputation has been steadily maintained. Fine plated goods in great variety have been made by them and their quality can be best described by the statement that only 18 k. gold was used in their production, the goods proving always and strictly what they purported to be. Theirs was for many years the largest and most important business in the East village. It gave employment to one hundred and twenty workmen and supplied an extensive market with both handsome and substantial goods. These were sold in New York under charge of Mr. Briggs, who resided there, while Mr. Hayward had entire supervision of the manufactory here.

In July, 1885, the old firm was dissolved and Walter E. Hayward became associated with his father, under the name of C. E. HAYWARD & Co. In May, 1886, Mr. Hayward died and the son continued alone, until in 1887 George L. Sweet became his partner and the present name of HAYWARD & SWEET was assumed.

HAYWARD & BRIGGS trained a generation in the art of jewelry making,

and the name will be remembered as a synonym of justice, honesty, and probity in mercantile transactions in the annals of our great industry through many a coming generation.

B. S. FREEMAN & Co. The first name of this firm was FREEMAN & BRO., its members Benjamin S. and Joseph J. Freeman, and their business was established in 1847 in a portion of their father's house at the Falls. They began with twenty-five hands, or thereabouts, and continued for several years in that place and then moved into the shop next the Falls mill, which had been built for them. About 1855 Virgil Richards became a member of the firm and Co. was added to the name. In 1858 property was purchased at Robinsonville and at once occupied, and at the same time the brothers bought out Mr. Richards and resumed the former name. They began soon, and among the earliest in town, to make rolled plated goods, vest chains being one of their specialties. After moving to Robinsonville they commenced the manufacture of curb-chains.

J. J. Freeman bought an imported curb-chain and after making many experiments he reached the desired result in constructing machinery to make rolled plated curb-chains successfully. These were the first made in Attleborough and were known as "Freeman's curb-chains"; they were made in large quantities and sold extensively. In 1860 the firm became FREEMAN & Co., and soon after a temporary change was effected in the kind of goods manufactured, a change which was demanded by the war. Articles were made which were needed for soldiers' use, such as war badges, brass chains, and even military buttons.

In 1879 Joseph J. Freeman died, and the name was changed to the present one of B. S. FREEMAN & Co. Mr. Freeman was an ingenious man, possessing many ideas of his own and naturally an inventor. He was clever in making designs and had the mechanical skill necessary to execute them. Much of the credit for the large measure of success attained by this company is due to him. B. S. Freeman, Jr., was admitted to the firm in 1882, and no further changes have occurred. Solid rolled plate goods is the make of this firm, chiefly chains and bracelets, and prosperity has attended it from the beginning. When business is brisk from fifty to sixty hands are employed, and sometimes a larger number. Its New York office is at 194 Broadway.

J. F. STURDY & Co. started soon after FREEMAN & BRO. Mr. Sturdy had previously been in business in Providence, first as a maker of dies and later of jewelry, with his brother, James H. Sturdy, and while they were together there they discovered the process of making what is now called rolled or stock plate. They came to Robinsonville, and on September 7, 1849, the company was organized as DRAPER, STURDY & Co. and consisted of J. F. and J. H. Sturdy and Herbert M. Draper. They *introduced* the manufacture of *rolled gold plated stock and jewelry* into the town of Attle-

borough. They also generously imparted to certain other jewelers a knowledge of their process of making this rolled plate, which was speedily acted upon, and the result has been a very general adoption of their method.

September 6, 1850, J. H. Sturdy retired, and September 16, 1851, James A. Mason entered the firm. Some further changes took place, and finally J. A. Perry and F. Doll became associated with Mr. Sturdy under the present style of J. F. STURDY & Co. They in 1861 began manufacturing curb-chains of rolled plate. This partnership ended in about a year, and Mr. Sturdy remained in the business alone for thirteen years. In 1875 his son Frederick E. became associated with him, and in 1879 his two other sons, Herbert K. and Frank M. Sturdy, continuing the name assumed in 1861. These four gentlemen are still the members of this firm, which, through its continuance of almost forty years at what is now the Falls, has done a fair business and been steadily successful.

F. G. WHITNEY & Co. F. G. Whitney and E. W. Davenport formed this firm in 1849 and began operations in a building now standing on East Street, North Attleborough. In 1852 they built and occupied the shop which later became the carriage-shop of JOHN STANLEY & SON. Henry Dunster subsequently entered the firm, and in 1853 Mr. Davenport withdrew. In 1859 new quarters were taken in E. I. Richards' factory, and Eliakim Rice was admitted to partnership, remaining till 1871, when he retired. About that time the present firm name was adopted; but what its previous titles were the writer does not know. In 1873 the business was moved to the Company's factory, and it became very flourishing, the employees numbering all the way from one to two hundred.

In 1876 Mr. Whitney built a large factory for himself at Davis' bridge, Chestnut Street, one hundred and fifty feet by thirty-five, and three stories in height. This was subsequently burned and immediately rebuilt. The business is at present conducted by George B. and Edwin F. Whitney, sons of the founder of the firm. The goods of the old firm were of brasswork, every kind of fancy goods and novelties called for by the caprices of the market. The manufacture at present is oxidized and silver-plated articles — lacepins, cuff-buttons, clasps, buckles, bracelets, hairpins, and collarettes, and also a great variety of articles in fire-gilt and electro-plate. This was among the earliest establishments where inexpensive jewelry was manufactured, and it supplies both a foreign and domestic market. It has an office on Broadway, New York. [This firm has ceased to exist.]

WHITE & SHAW. This is the oldest representative of the jewelry trade in South Attleborough. The firm was organized in 1852 and is the oldest in town bearing a never-changed name. At first the manufacture was of brass jewelry, but for some time has been that of jewelers' findings. The shop is a little out of the centre of the village. In the ordinary good conditions of business the employees here number ten to twelve.

H. F. Barrows & Co. This firm bears the name it bore originally, the addition of "Co." excepted, and during the thirty-five years of its existence has had but one other change. It is one of the oldest and largest in the town. The senior member, Henry F. Barrows, began for himself in 1853 in the old shop near the Braid mill, or Falls factory. The following year James H. Sturdy entered into partnership with him under the style of Barrows & Sturdy, and in 1856 they removed to the Richards factory in North Attleborough. In 1857 Mr. Sturdy withdrew, and Louis A. Barrows and E. S. Richards entered the firm, which took the name of H. F. Barrows & Co. Louis A. Barrows died in 1860. In 1862 or 1863 Mr. Richards retired and for more than twenty years thereafter H. F. Barrows, Sr., constituted the firm, though his two sons as they became old enough became connected with the business. On January 1, 1887, they were both admitted to the firm, whose members now are H. F., Ira, and H. F. Barrows, Jr.

About 1862 the firm removed to their own manufactory on Broad Street, where they still remain. Mr. Barrows commenced with from six to ten workmen, and now the average number in his firm's employ is one hundred and twenty-five, with sometimes an increase. With the association of the last-named partners the old custom of monthly payment of wages was changed to semi-monthly, a custom adopted frequently at the present time. Mr. Barrows began among the earliest to make rolled plate, — doubtless from his association with Mr. Sturdy, — and no change has since been made in the character of the manufacture, which is the best of its kind. Great varieties and many patterns of goods have been made to respond to the call of the market from time to time, and at present the specialty is chains. The New York office of this firm is at 177 Broadway. It is in the charge especially of Ira Barrows, who has a residence in that city.

H. D. Merritt & Co. In 1855 H. D. Merritt and J. B. Draper started in business together in the Richards factory as Merritt & Draper. In 1870 they removed to Mansfield, and while the business was being conducted there Mr. Draper retired from it. John Shepardson took his place and the firm its present name. In 1872 the business was brought back to its former place, where it increased and prospered. Mr. Merritt died in 1878, and Mr. Shepardson took as a partner C. H. Miller. The firm continues under the same name, making rolled plate and silver goods. [Mrs. H. D. Merritt and W. W. Sherman are present partners.]

C. E. W. Sherman & Son. As we have seen, a Frenchman established the manufacturing of jewelry in town, and it was by means of a Frenchman also that jewelers here were first enabled to get their clippings and sweepings refined. One used to "stop over" in North Attleborough on his way to Boston, and going from shop to shop make collections of these infinitesimal fragments in a handkerchief and take them to that city for the necessary process. Later, these materials were sent to New York, and this continued

to be the custom until July, 1854, at which time Mr. Sherman and George K. Davis, as GEORGE K. DAVIS & Co., began operations in this branch of the jewelry business. Their shop was near the Davis bridge on the Ten Mile River. This copartnership was dissolved in two or three years. Mr. Sherman then built himself a shop on Elm Street, where the firm now is, and transacted business for himself till the autumn of 1875, when his son, William W. Sherman, became associated with him under the present name. The fact that ten years ago from $50,000 to $60,000 worth of gold was annually obtained by this firm from clippings, etc., shows the size and importance of its special work, and within a few years this amount has probably about doubled.

To the work of gold and silver refiners the firm add that of assayers and smelters and manufacturers of blue vitriol. Mr. Sherman's was the first firm of its kind in town, and for a long period it continued to be the only one.

Within a few years an establishment of a similar kind has been started in East Attleborough, that of BARBER & BURLINGHAME, who also deal in various supplies for the trade. [Not in existence.]

BATES & BACON. The origin of this firm dates back to the well-remembered year of 1857, the time of a general depression and prostration of business and of widespread financial difficulties. On September 10 of that year the firm of SKINNER, VIALL & Co., of which J. M. Bates was a member, started in a room over Blackinton's shuttle-shop. At the end of a year, in which the business had not been large even for those times, Mr. Bates had come to the conclusion that more "push" was required to satisfy his ambition. He therefore sold out his interest in the above-mentioned firm and formed a new one, that of BATES, CAPRON & WILLIAMS, and located in the Falls factory, now that of the GOLD MEDAL BRAID CO. Two years of prosperity followed this new organization and then, Mr. Bates' partners desiring a change of location, he sold out to William Sherman. This company removed to Mansfield but was unfortunate, and after a few years relinquished business. Such also was the experience of Mr. Bates' original partners; they were not successful and therefore retired from the jewelry business altogether.

On leaving the Falls Mr. Bates returned to his old place in the shuttle-shop and did a moderately good business there for three years. Then he removed to the East village and occupied the lower story of the Steam Power Company's building. The effect of the war was favorable to Mr. Bates, for not long after it commenced his business began to increase, for 1863 was a year of marked prosperity, and this continued until 1867. At that time a very large trade had been built up and Mr. Bates deemed it "wise to take a partner." George M. Bacon entered into partnership with him, and together they still form the firm of BATES & BACON. Mr. Bacon at once proved a "valuable assistant." He has been the salesman of the concern and has

always filled that difficult position with remarkable success. He greatly enlarged and extended the sales of the firm's goods, and during the twenty years of this partnership so far an increase has been continually maintained.

In these days of almost unlimited competition, not only in this but in almost every branch of trade, the office of salesman is no sinecure but one of varied and difficult requirements. Nerve, activity, determination, a pleasing address, agreeable manners, the power of adaptation to all places, circumstances, and people, a thorough knowledge of his own line of traffic, and about as much of his neighbors', are some of the characteristics needed. The complete salesman must be ever alert, quick to see and seize chances, and conversant with every phase of the entire market; he must be endowed with a great amount of diplomacy — indeed be able to turn refusal into acceptance, either by his own "power of persuasion" or by the medium of an open purse and a generous hand. In a word, his state must always be that of "up and doing," lest another step in before him and win the prize. What he has accomplished for his firm proves Mr. Bacon to be the happy possessor of at least a goodly share of these requisites.

The specialty of this firm has always been rolled-gold plated bracelets, although it has made jewelry of almost every description. It employs a large number of hands — in the busiest seasons as many as two hundred. In 1882 Messrs. Bates and Bacon made an innovation by introducing into Attleborough the manufacture of watchcases. They make these both filled and of 14k. gold. The venture proved a good one, for the growth of the business has been constant and they now turn out one hundred and fifty cases a day. A few years ago additional space was required, and in 1884 Mr. Bates built a shop 200 feet long, 35 feet wide, and four stories high, which the firm now occupies. The paydays here are monthly — on the fifteenth instant. This is the largest firm in East Attleborough.[1]

G. A. Dean & Co. In January, 1857, A. M. Everett, G. A. Dean, S. L. Morse, E. S. Capron, and R. Bliss organized as Everett, Dean & Co. S. L. Morse left the firm in November, 1858, and E. S. Capron in May, 1859. In January, 1860, B. B. Day became a partner and the name was changed to Everett, Day & Co. A. M. Everett's withdrawal in July, 1867, necessitated another change in name and that of Day, Bliss & Dean was taken. Mr. Day died in January, 1871, and the business was then continued in the name of Bliss & Dean, Rodolphus Bliss and George A. Dean being the partners. Mr. Bliss died in August, 1883, and in the following January the present name was adopted. Mr. Dean, its present representative, is the only one of the five original members left in the business. Of the six gentlemen associated in it during its existence three are dead and the other two, Mr.

[1] Messrs. Bates and Bacon have dissolved partnership by the withdrawal of Mr. Bacon from the firm. Mr. Bates continues the business and retains the old firm name.

Everett and Mr. Capron, have for many years been engaged in different vocations.

At the organization nine hands were employed. As with other firms, the number of hands has had a varying increase, but during the past fifteen years the average has been about seventy-five. Though several changes of name have occurred, none have taken place in the nature of the goods manufactured. These have been always of rolled plate, and for many years chains, charms, and bracelets, though formerly lockets were also made. This firm has made an excellent class of goods and met with an abundant measure of success. It has long been one of the most solid and substantial firms in its part of the town. Its New York office is at 194 Broadway.

BLAKE & CLAFLIN, successors to STURDY BROS. & CO. July 1, 1859, Charles H. and Albert W. Sturdy formed a partnership under the name of STURDY BROTHERS, both having previously had practical experience in jewelry manufacturing. They located in one of the Steam Power Company's buildings and were burned out within three months in the great fire which destroyed all that Company's shops. They saved some tools and moved temporarily to Mansfield. The Steam Power Company immediately rebuilt — if we remember rightly, a large new shop was completed in sixty days after the foundations were laid, under the efficient management of the late Jesse R. Carpenter, and in the autumn of 1861 STURDY BROTHERS returned to town and located in this new building.

Meanwhile during the summer of that year A. W. Sturdy had enlisted and through the two years of his service C. H. Sturdy carried on the business alone. The early days of the war were "dull times," but in 1863 "business throughout the country revived under the impetus of the paper money issued by the government," and about that time Mr. Albert Sturdy received his discharge on account of a severe wound which unfitted him for further service, and returned home. Like many others at that period this firm took a "new lease of life." Between 1863 and the close of the war they made gold, silver, and rolled plate army badges in very large quantities, and also various emblems for the use of soldiers, such as regimental badges for their identification, etc.

When the demand for these articles ceased, STURDY BROTHERS turned their attention to the making of ladies' jewelry in rolled plate. These goods were of the best quality, and the firm soon acquired an enviable reputation for producing first-class work and for many years carried on an extensive business in this line. C. H. Sturdy retired in July, 1871, and E. G. Webster, of Brooklyn, L. I., took a place in the firm and Co. was added to the old name. For fifteen or twenty years the number of employees varied from forty to eighty as the demands of the market warranted. The payroll averaged nearly $4,000 per month, and the sales during many years reached $100,000. For twenty years all the goods manufactured were sent to the Company's

office at No. 14 Maiden Lane, New York, but since 1882 they have been shipped from the factory here to their various destinations direct.

January 1, 1885, both partners sold out, and after a prosperous career of fully a quarter of a century the old name of STURDY BROTHERS ceased to exist. The new firm consists of James E. Blake, who was for a long period a salesman for the preceding firm, and Edward P. Claflin, for many years in their employ as foreman. Though he has relinquished all active participation, Mr. Albert Sturdy still retains a financial interest in the concern as a special partner. The prosperity which followed the course of the old firm still attends the new. The youthful element introduced has given new impetus to the former activity, and the future has a promising outlook. Some additions have been made to the previous line of goods, and certain lines of solid gold jewelry are now being manufactured. None of the members of this firm have died. One of those who retired is engaged in an entirely different occupation and the others are "enjoying the fruits of their labors"

Two years prior to the formation of the above-mentioned firm — in 1857 — V. H. BLACKINTON purchased the old schoolhouse at Robinsonville and made it over into a manufactory. His first essay was in jet goods, in a line for ladies' use. This proved successful, the business increased, and additions were made to his shop. On February 15, 1869, it was burned, but rebuilt at once, and the same line of goods manufactured — jet, with the addition of novelties, military goods, society emblems, etc. Mr. Blackinton still continues in the same place, but his shop, instead of being as formerly in Robinsonville, on the "road to North Attleborough," is on Commonwealth Avenue, Attleborough Falls.

SHORT, NERNEY & Co. This firm has an existence of a quarter of a century. In 1862 Mace B. Short, Peter Nerney, and Ephraim Adams associated together as NERNEY & Co. The last-named partner remained only about nine months and Messrs. Nerney and Short continued until 1876. They began with the production of horn goods, then took up electro-plating, and, by general license, of all sorts and kinds of jewelry. In the autumn of 1876 James J. Horton entered the firm, which took its present title. At that time the electro-plating business was sold to NERNEY & LINCOLN, and the company took up the manufacture of all kinds of stock plated chains. For several years the "Nerney Patent Swivel" has also been made. This is an invention of Mr. Nerney, and he took out a patent on it in 1884.

The average number of workmen employed in this establishment in ordinary times is fifty, but this number is frequently increased to seventy-five and sometimes more. For 1886, which was a light year, the payroll amounted to over $20.000. This firm has had a steady success for a number of years, and none has a better reputation. It has changed its location — is at present in No. 13 Mill Street, East Attleborough. It has no out-of-town office. [Changes have been made by the admission of some young men to the firm, but the name remains the same.]

T. I. Smith & Co. Antedating the last-mentioned firm by a few years, another large firm had its beginning: Theron I. Smith and David D. Codding were the partners and the name Codding & Smith. Like the majority these gentlemen began in a small room and in a small way. At the end of a year they removed to Mansfield Centre. The war entirely broke up their business and they were obliged to discontinue it, and added to this misfortune the building where their tools were stored was totally destroyed by fire in May, 1861, and they "lost everything." They were not, however, permanently disheartened, and with the close of the war determined to try again. In July, 1865, they, together with C. H. Ames, commenced the business for the second time in North Attleborough, under the style of Codding, Smith & Co., locating in Stephen Richardson's building. At the end of two years of moderate prosperity Mr. Ames left the firm and A. E. Codding entered, no change occurring in the name. At this time a complement of fifty hands was employed.

In January, 1867, the business was removed to the Dennis Everett factory, and in 1871 another move was made to the new factory erected by Mr. Richardson, where it remained about three years. While located there Mr. Smith bought out his two partners and carried on the business alone for a year. At the end of that time D. D. Codding purchased a one-half interest, and the present firm name was taken. The business was transferred to the E. I. Richards building in 1880, and in January, 1881, Henry H. Curtis, a former salesman, was admitted as a partner in the firm. He subsequently withdrew, and E. A. Crawford has been admitted, and the present members are Messrs. Smith, Codding and Crawford. Though its earlier days were full of difficulties and discouragements, sufficient even to annihilate it for a time, it has overcome them all and its later days have been filled with a highly satisfactory degree of prosperity. This firm ranks among the largest in town, as it has employed generally from ninety to a hundred and ten hands. Its specialties have been bracelets, pins, charms, etc. At present these are cuff-buttons and bracelets.

J. J. & J. M. Richards. In April, 1864, the firm of E. S. Richards & Co. started in the Company's building at North Attleborough. Its members were E. S. and J. M. Richards. E. S. Richards died in October, 1865, and his two brothers, J. J. and J. M. Richards, bought his interest. In January, 1866, they assumed the present firm name. In February, 1871, they moved their manufactory to Stephen Richardson's building, and five years later, in 1876, J. J. Richards, Jr., succeeded to his father's share in the business. The Richardson building was burned in April, 1882, and in the following July a location was found in Totten's building, and this is still retained. Of the three brothers formerly in this firm but one remains, for J. J. Richards died in August, 1882. In the beginning twenty hands were employed — now double that number, with an average weekly payroll

of $700. The specialty here is gold front goods, and the firm has always been distinguished for the superior quality of its productions. There is a New York office connected with it.

J. W. LUTHER & Co. James W. and John W. Luther, brothers, started in January, 1865, in the Steam Power building. They remained there for ten years, and then took their present situation in the basement of E. A. Robinson's shop. They are lapidaries, and besides cutting and preparing real stones they also manufacture imitation stones for jewelers' use. They have at times done quite a large business in their line, employing fifteen to twenty workmen, and having a payroll of some $500 per month. In this as in all other lines there are frequently temporary dull times, and this special branch of the trade is more affected by the changes in style than some others. Patterns in gold and silver goods may be readily changed, and profitably; but if the caprices of fashion demand neither real nor imitation gems, the worker in these must be comparatively idle — though there is always something to be done. This firm is one of excellent repute, and the Messrs. Luther are considered skilled workmen in their art.

F. S. DRAPER & Co. This firm was formed in 1865 by F. S. Draper, F. S. Bailey, and F. G. Pate, as DRAPER, PATE & BAILEY. The business was at first established in the Richards factory, and subsequently removed to the stone factory of the Whiting Manufacturing Company. Mr. Pate left the firm in 1875, when the present name was adopted. About this time the Company were burned out, and Mr. Draper soon purchased a shop on Broad Street, to which he made additions, and where the business was carried on up to the time of his death. In 1877 he bought the interest of Mr. Bailey, his remaining associate, and continued alone but under the same name as before. DRAPER, PATE & BAILEY had a remarkably successful career. In two years their business grew so rapidly that the number of workmen increased from twenty-five to a hundred and twenty-five. After assuming its conduct alone, Mr. Draper employed sixty-five hands in the making of plated charms and fire-gilt chains, and his annual payroll amounted to $55,000.

Mr. Draper's death occurred in August, 1886, and on September 1 following the business was purchased by Miss Annie Meader, who had for a long period been the bookkeeper of the concern, and for several years had had charge of the buying and selling and the general oversight of its affairs. Miss Meader has recently removed the business to East Attleborough, but conducts it under the old name of F. S. DRAPER & Co. She has no partner, and is the only woman in town who attends personally to manufacturing. Another, Mrs. E. I. Richards, is represented in a firm, as has been stated, but in that case the affairs are conducted by the other partner, her son, Mr. E. Ira Richards.

The New York office of F. S. DRAPER & Co. is at 194 Broadway, and the specialty is German silver, fire-gilt, and nickel-plated chains, rolled plate

charms, etc. The present management proves to be successful, a fact of interest to ladies who may be inclined toward a mercantile life. [Firm has ceased to exist.]

A. BUSHEE & Co. Albert A. Bushee and Ebenezer Bacon were the original members of this firm, and they commenced operations January 18, 1868, in an old two-story house then standing in the rear of the Steam Power Company's shop, occupying only the first floor. For a few years they made cheap goods, with finger-rings as a specialty, and their workmen averaged from fifteen to twenty-five. In the early part of 1870 the firm was enlarged by the entrance of Charles H. Bushee. Two years later — in the spring of 1872 — they erected their large shop on County Street. This is a wooden structure, 100 feet by 35, and three stories high, with a wing in the rear. Of this building the firm themselves occupy the first floor. They have taken up another specialty called "The Original Separable Cuff and Collar Buttons," which are made in the best quality of fire gilt. In this they have been very successful for a number of years. At present their employees number about seventy-five, and their payroll some $30,000 a year. Mr. Bacon withdrew from the firm on December 12, 1886, and no subsequent additions have been made. The Bushee brothers carry on the business, and the name has been unchanged from the beginning.

This firm has been especially enterprising and its trade a lucrative one. Mr. Albert Bushee has always attended to the entire portion of its out-of-town affairs, and has traveled extensively in its interests. Being a man of energy and the necessary "push," he at once established it upon a firm basis, and possessing as he does many of the characteristics and accomplishments essential in a perfect salesman, his efforts have been attended by most gratifying results, so that the name of A. BUSHEE & Co. has become very well known. The New York office is at 237 Broadway, Room No. 24.

W. & S. BLACKINTON. This firm was formed in 1869, with W. S. and William Sumner Blackinton, father and son, as partners. During the twelve previous years the father had been doing something in the jewelry line, but it was not until the formation of this firm that he met with anything more than very ordinary success. After the organization they commenced making plated chains, and Mr. Blackinton introduced new lines of these goods, of his own origination. They attracted attention, became popular, and the ultimate success of the firm was assured. The rather small beginning was made at the shuttle-shop, with fifteen hands. For a time subsequently a portion of Bushee's shop was occupied, when about eighty-five hands were employed, and then the present quarters in one of the Bates buildings were taken, and the usual complement of hands increased to a hundred and thirty. This complement has sometimes reached a hundred and sixty-five, when the business would represent an annual sum of several hundred thousand dollars. The payroll here is monthly, and reaches at present $7,500.

In 1880 Louis A. Blackinton, another son, was admitted to partnership; but the name remained as before. This firm uses only solid rolled gold plate, and confines itself exclusively to chains. These are made after an almost innumerable number of patterns, and of every style, from the heaviest "cable chain," usable as a gentleman's watchguard, to the most delicate infants' neck chain, of a texture almost as fine as hair, are all well finished, and present a handsome appearance. Indeed an adept would be required to detect the difference between many of these and solid chains of the same patterns. Mr. Blackinton has insisted upon good workmanship, taking pride in the quality and durability of his manufactures, and their popularity has been well earned and well sustained. The firm is one of the largest in the east part of the town. The office in New York has always been at No. 11 Maiden Lane.[1]

SADLER BROS. George W. Sadler first started in business at South Attleborough in 1863, in partnership with Daniel O. Stanley, as SADLER & STANLEY. Subsequently Mr. Stanley left the firm, and in 1869 the business, now that of SADLER BROS., began. The name was assumed when in 1870 Albert D. Sadler joined his brother. He died in 1875, and from that time until 1884 the founder of the business conducted it alone. His death occurred during that year, and the business was then taken up by Charles E. and Herbert A. Sadler, who constitute the present firm. It has always been located in "the city," and since the commencement has manufactured all grades of brass and plated jewelry.

HORTON, ANGELL & Co. This widely known firm was organized in 1870, by Edwin J. Horton, Benjamin J. Angell, and Gideon M. Horton, who at once styled themselves by this name. They began in a small room in Bailey's shop, now Robinson's — hiring only a few hands. By 1873 their trade had so much increased that they were able to hire half a floor in their present shop, that of A. BUSHEE & Co. The increase continued, and about 1876 an entire floor became necessary, and in January, 1881, another, so that now the firm occupies the whole of the second and third floors. Their average number of operatives ranges from one hundred to one hundred and fifty, quite a percentage of these being women, as is also the case with A. BUSHEE & Co. Among their employees are many who have never worked in any other shop, and many who have continued with them for years. Their pay-roll is about $1,000 per week, and they still maintain their old office in Room 24, No. 237 Broadway, New York.

Edwin J. Horton was lost in the collision between the Sound steamers Narragansett and Stonington, which occurred June 12, 1880. Though comparatively young both in years and in commercial affairs, he had lived long

[1] Mr. Blackinton, Sr., has died. The two brothers, W. S. and L. A. Blackinton, continue the business under the same name, and it may be said with the same reputation and success.

enough to make "many friends in the trade." He was the traveling member of the firm, and he began at the very first with an inflexible determination to make his business a success, and this was accomplished during his lifetime. Everett S. Horton, an older brother, took the place in the firm thus made vacant. On October 14, 1886, B. J. Angell was thrown from his carriage near the Agricultural Hall, and died in a few hours from the effects of the injuries sustained. Gideon M. Horton, the third and last of the founders of the firm, died December 16, 1886, in San Antonio, Texas. The experience through which this firm has passed is most singular and unprecedented. In less than twenty years from its formation the three original members had died, all of them suddenly, two of them violent deaths — but its copartnership affairs were so well arranged that no interruptions followed these accidents. The business went on smoothly, without a jar, though the vacant places were such both in the firm and in the community as cannot easily be filled.

The unusual and sudden calling away of his partners, added to his own failing health, had doubtless turned Mr. Gideon Horton's attention to the future career of his firm to a far greater degree than ordinary circumstances would warrant in a man of his years. There were three young men in whom he felt peculiarly interested; two of them had been in the employ of the firm from ten to fourteen years, and the other for a somewhat shorter period, but all had proved themselves to possess worth and ability. A full understanding was had between Mr. Horton and his brother, the then only other partner previous to his leaving home shortly before his death, with regard to the probable future admittance of these young men to the firm. Partial arrangements having thus been made, it was comparatively easy to mature such others as were necessary, when the anticipated time arrived. Early in 1887 the present partnership was entered into, under the first and only name the firm has ever held. These partners are E. S. Horton, T. S. Carpenter, M. E. Rowe, and H. A. Clark.

The chief article of this firm's manufacture — known everywhere as its specialty — has been the "Original Separable Sleeve Button, Collar Button, and Stud." This is the best and most convenient button, it is said, that is made at the present time. It is easily adjusted, and from its real merits claims to be the best. These merits have been thoroughly tested, and though there have been many attempts to infringe upon and "improve" upon them, they still, it is stated, "bear the palm." Meanwhile every improvement that could be devised has been adopted to facilitate this manufacture, and many important articles of machinery have been made, and large sums of money expended for that purpose. These sleeve-buttons, etc., are made of rolled gold plate, stamped H. A. & Co., and are warranted by the firm to be "exactly as stated in each and every particular." Their durability may be shown by the statement that the office possesses some, which may be seen

there, which have been in constant use for eight years, and are still in good condition. Unlike many enterprises, the high standard set in the beginning has in this instance been strictly maintained during all the ensuing years. These goods are sent all over the world, and "the best," we are told, is the universal verdict pronounced. Besides this specialty a large line of initial sleeve and collar buttons, a new line of initial scarfpins, and in great quantities other patent buttons, besides ladies' sleeve-buttons and cuff-fasteners combined, are made by this firm. Its make includes probably over two thousand styles of collar-buttons, sleeve-buttons, studs, etc. These facts will give some idea of what is done in one of Attleborough's large jewelry establishments.

This firm was the first to adopt the custom of weekly payments to employees, a custom its members consider advantageous to both employers and employed, in an establishment where work is paid by "the hour" as well as by "the job." Here every Monday each employee is paid in full to the Saturday night previous, and from the first payday to the present time "the firm have never missed one." HORTON, ANGELL & Co. began with the motto of an "honest and straightforward manner of dealing," and though the founders have all passed away, the new members in retaining the old name propose to maintain the old principles and the same old good reputation.

YOUNG & BENNETT. The organization of the Company bearing this name took place in 1870, its members being Charles P. Young, Alonzo F. Bennett, and Edgar Sargar. In 1873 the latter retired. They located first on Washington Street, North Attleborough, and are now in Whiting's building. They make solid rolled gold plated chains and trimmings. They have adopted the weekly payday system. Their out-of-town office is in Chicago. [NOW YOUNG & STERN.]

E. WHITNEY & Co. Edwin Whitney and William A. Read were the originators of this firm, and they commenced manufacturing in the old shop at the Falls with ten hands. At the present time, when business is good, they employ about forty. They occupy a floor in Daggett's building to which they removed in 1882. They began at first to make album and Bible clasps, later made a line of chains and novelties, and now make bar pins, brooches, earhoops and drops, bracelets, scarfpins, cuff-buttons, etc., in rolled plate. There have been no changes in the name or membership since the formation, and there is no office except the one at the factory. [No firm of this name in existence.]

STANLEY BROS. Stephen and Benjamin Stanley and E. C. Knapp associated themselves together May 1, 1871, under the above name. At the end of four years, in 1875, Mr. Knapp withdrew from the partnership, and since then the two brothers Stanley have conducted the business with no further change in the firm. They are in the same location they have always occupied

in the old shop at the Falls, but they have made several additions in the way of space, and their business has greatly enlarged. They use rolled gold plate, nothing else, and manufacture chains of many kinds, for men, women, and children's wear. The average number of hands employed is about thirty-five, sometimes increased to fifty, and monthly payments are made. This is a steadily prosperous firm, and it has an office at 20 Maiden Lane, New York.

CUMMINGS & WEXEL. The original firm name was E. N. CUMMINGS & Co., E. N. and J. C. Cummings and Nelson Carpenter constituting the same, and it was formed in 1871. Mr. Carpenter retired in 1873, and Mr. E. N. Cummings in 1876, at which time Henry Wexel became a partner with John Cummings, and the firm took its present name. At first its manufacture was fine sets and buttons; at present its specialty consists of separable and non-separable sleeve and collar buttons, in both rolled plate and fire gilt. Mr. Wexel possesses great ingenuity and mechanical skill, and is constantly at work inventing new designs, making all those used in the works of this concern. This firm has been a fortunate one, and for a number of years has employed quite a large force of workmen. Its office in New York is at 176 Broadway.[1]

P. E. WITHERELL, successor to HAYWARD & WITHERELL. On January 1, 1873, Henry L. Hayward and Nelson Carpenter formed a copartnership under the style of HAYWARD & CARPENTER, and commenced operations in the Hayward factory. Proctor E. Witherell purchased Mr. Carpenter's interest, and on October 21, 1879, the firm name was changed to HAYWARD & WITHERELL. Mr. Hayward retired December 19, 1885, and since then Mr. Witherell has had entire charge of the business. On February 9, 1887, he bought the interest of the Charles E. Hayward estate, and thus became sole partner and proprietor under the above name. There has always been a variety in the goods produced by this firm, and Mr. Witherell continues the several lines; namely, cuff and collar buttons, bar, lace, bib, and scarf pins, sets, drops, etc., in rolled plate. The employees range in number from twelve to forty, according to the dictation of the market in the direction of his manufacture. Mr. Witherell maintains no office in New York but has a salesman at 115 Worth Street there, a traveling agent, and the expectation of opening an office in Chicago

R. F. SIMMONS & Co. About 1873 Mr. Simmons began as a manufacturing jeweler, and remained alone something over a year, making rolled plate chains. In January, 1874, he took E. L. Hixon, of North Attleborough, as

[1] This partnership has been dissolved by the withdrawal of Mr. Cummings from the firm. Mr. Wexel has associated some young men with himself, and continues the business under the name of H. WEXEL & CO. Mr. Cummings purchased the business known as the BATES BUTTON CO., an enterprise started by Mr. J. M. Bates, in 1885. His partner is Mr. Joseph G. Hutchinson, previously connected with the Button Co., and the firm name is J. C. CUMMINGS & CO.

a partner, thus creating the present firm name. They took the second floor of the old Daggett jewelry shop, just south of the stone mill at the Falls. In March, 1875, J. L. Sweet, then of East Attleborough, entered the firm as an equal partner, but the name underwent no change, and in the following June the firm moved to Robinsville and established their manufactory on the first floor of the Freeman building. Since then several additions have been made to this building in order to keep pace with the rapid growth of the firm's business, and it now occupies "something over 10,000 square feet of floor."

The growth of this enterprise has been remarkable. Twelve years ago it was by comparison insignificant, requiring but eight or ten hands to produce the goods made; to-day it is a large industry in itself, furnishing employment to over two hundred people, and distributing among them for a month's wages from $8,000 to $9,000. This firm confines itself entirely to the manufacture of rolled gold plated chains in great variety, and only of the very best quality. The figures given show something of the proportions the production has assumed. The New York office is in the new Knapp Building, 41 and 43 Maiden Lane, and the firm is "represented" in a number of foreign cities; namely, Rio Janeiro, Buenos Ayres, Montevideo, Berlin, Barcelona, and Sydney, New South Wales. There have been no changes since the organization, either by death or withdrawal.

The course of this firm has been a brilliant one, and its sudden though permanent success almost unprecedented. This good fortune has been largely due to the fact that it at once established a reliable character for itself as a manufacturing house that invariably produced goods which prove what they purport to be, and that its members were possessed of the needed sagacity, foresight, and energy. R. F. Simmons & Co. probably have in their employ more people than any other firm in town.[1]

Bliss Brothers & Everett. This partnership continued for about fourteen years. In 1873 Charles E. and Everett B. Bliss and R. L. F. Everett organized a firm under this name. They first located in the Steam Power Company's building, but moved from there February 1, 1876, to their present location in the Robinson Building No. 2. They have an office in Room 18, No. 176 Broadway, New York, and Mr. Everett has attended to the interests of the business there. They commenced with the manufacture of ladies' sets, but as fashions have changed they have gradually changed their style of work, and at present are making gentlemen's and ladies' charms, bar and cuff pins, collar-buttons, and a variety of other articles of ornamented jewelry. From the commencement they have used a good quality of

[1] During 1892-93 they erected a large factory at Blackintonville, between the Bungay River and the Attleborough Branch Railroad, east of the crossing. The building, including the offices, is 255 feet long, about 36 feet wide, and three stories high. The owners occupy the second floor, and Bliss Brothers and C. A. Wetherell & Co. the third floor.

rolled plate and have always maintained the good reputation their goods gained for them. They employ from thirty to fifty hands, which proves them to have been successful. The original firm has recently been dissolved by the withdrawal of Mr. Everett, but the business will be continued by the other two members under the name of BLISS BROTHERS.

WATSON, NEWELL & Co. November 1, 1874, Charles J. Cobb, Samuel Gould, Clarence L. Watson, and Fred. A. Newell formed a partnership under the style of COBB, GOULD & Co.[1] Mr. Cobb left the firm February 29, 1879, and Mr. Gould on January 10, 1880, when the name became, after the two remaining partners, WATSON & NEWELL. January 1, 1887, Joseph F. Ripley entered the firm, which then affixed Co. to its name. The number of hands at the beginning was twelve, and there are now a hundred, the average number for some years. The weekly payroll is $1,000. Solid, rolled plate jewelry is the manufacture of this firm, and at present a specialty is made of sleeve and collar buttons. This has in former years been varied by the making of several styles of pins, such as lace, cuff, and shawl pins. The location has always been on Union Street and there is no out-of-town office. This is a substantial as well as enterprising firm, as its well-sustained position, after an existence of less than fifteen years among the largest and most prominent of the East Attleborough companies, amply testifies.

R. B. MACDONALD commenced business for himself January 1, 1874, in the Steam Power Company's building. He began to manufacture chain swivels, and soon built up quite a large and lucrative business. Mr. Macdonald moved in January, 1881, to his present location, the ground floor of Bates' new building on Union Street. At that time he made a change in his style of manufacture, and took up the making of fine plated chains, subsequently adding specialties in charms, brooches, pins, etc. He generally employs from fifteen to twenty workmen, and his monthly payroll ranges from $600 to $1,000. He has never had a partner, and his success is due to his own efforts. I. W. Lucas has charge of the sales for this manufactory.

JOSEPH J. DOYLE took his present location on the "Taunton road," Hebronville, in 1875. He manufactures enameled wood goods, and is also a japan enameler, etc. His present working force is about ten hands, with a payroll of $250 per month. [Mr. Doyle has left town, and his business has passed into other hands.]

JOHN ETZENSPERGER began business in July, 1876, alone. In 1880 W. A. and O. C. Miller became associated with him, but they remained his partners for only three years, as in February, 1883, he bought them out, and since that time has been again alone. He carries on his business in the E. I. Richards

[1] For some time during the earliest days of this firm's existence Mr. W. A. Battey was connected with the business, though not as an active partner in the concern. Since the above notice was written some changes in partnership, by admission, have occurred, but the well-known name remains unchanged.

factory, and employs from twenty to forty hands in the making of rolled gold plated chains and chain bracelets.

NERNEY & LINCOLN. In 1876 William Nerney and Fred. W. Lincoln purchased the electro-plating business which had for some years previous been carried on by SHORT & NERNEY, and established this firm. To the business of electro-plating they add that of coloring jewelry, but are not manufacturers. They are located in Bates' Building No. 1. Their employees are boys, and at present the number is not large.[1]

W. T. CHAFEE, formerly of the firm of CHAFEE & BALLOU, General Engravers, continues that occupation at Anawan Block, North Attleborough, in connection with a repairing business. He employs two or three hands.

S. E. FISHER & Co., with S. E. and W. W. Fisher and E. D. Sturtevant as partners, succeeded to the firm of DEMAREST, FISHER & Co. on July 1, 1887, and this partnership has continued till now unchanged. The basement of Stephen Richardson's factory was their first place of business, and on January 1, 1881, they moved to the place they now occupy in the new Union Power Company's building. They started with twenty-five hands, have sometimes employed a hundred, and now have about sixty. Their monthly payments for labor have been as much as $6,000, and now average about $3,000. These figures place them among the large firms of their vicinity. They make rolled plated goods of the finest grades, and specialties of ladies' lace pins, drops, sets, bangles, bracelets, lockets, etc. They have an office at 41 Maiden Lane, New York.

G. K. WEBSTER is located in Whiting's shop. The first firm name was G. K. WEBSTER & Co.; but in 1883 the "Co." was dropped. The first location was in the Company's shop, where from ten to fifteen hands were employed; at the present time from forty to fifty are employed, a satisfactory increase for four or five years. This is a manufactory of solid rolled plate goods, — collar and sleeve buttons, — and they are sold through the New York office at 176 Broadway.

CODDING BROTHERS. January 1, 1878, the three brothers — Arthur E., James A., and Edwin A. Codding — formed a partnership under the above name. Their business is conducted at North Attleborough, and their New York office is at 194 Broadway. They employ about twenty hands in the manufacture of rolled plate bracelets. There have been no changes in this firm since its organization.[2]

MARSH & BIGNEY. This firm started under its present name and with its present members, Charles A. Marsh and Sidney O. Bigney, at North Attle-

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[1] Messrs. Nerney and Lincoln dissolved partnership November 1, 1888, and on the same day entered the firm of C. A. WETHERELL & Co. which had been formed previously. The specialty is novelties in silver.

[2] The present name of this firm is CODDING BROTHERS & HEILBORN and their location in Codding Brothers' building on Jay Street near Elm Street, North Attleborough.

borough on December 15, 1879. They began operations in the Richardson factory with about ten workmen. In April, 1882, they were completely burned out, and they then removed to East Attleborough and located in one of E. A. Robinson's buildings there, where they still remain. Their workmen now number thirty, and their payroll amounts to about $1,500 a month. They are manufacturers of rolled plate goods, and their specialties are the "M. & B. Patent Neck Chain," vest chains for gentlemen, and ladies' chains. They have no out-of-town office, but Mr. Marsh attends to the sales which are consummated largely in New York and Chicago. This firm has had a very satisfactory career, and with the exception of its misfortune from fire has been steadily prosperous. [Dissolved partnership in July, 1894.]

S. W. GOULD & Co. This firm has been in existence since January, 1880, when Messrs. Samuel W. and William H. Gould, brothers, associated themselves together as a manufacturing firm under this style, beginning in one of Robinson's buildings. They subsequently moved to Bates' building on Union Street, where they now are. Their specialties are ladies' bar pins, buttons, brooches, etc., of rolled plate and what is called gold front manufacture. Since the first the firm has averaged a working force of fifty hands, which shows that the business is a steady and successful one. There is an office at 10 Maiden Lane, New York. Mr. George L. Sweet, of the firm of HAYWARD & SWEET, formerly acted as salesman for this firm. The present salesman is William W. Middlebrook, formerly employed in that capacity for C. E. HAYWARD & Co.[1]

J. M. FISHER & Co. The original firm, formed January 1, 1880, was HARRIS & FISHER, J. M. Fisher and C. R. Harris being its members. They occupied quarters in Robinson's small brick building and now occupy the upper floor of his new building. In February, 1885, Mr. Harris left the firm and S. A. Briggs entered it, and the present name was adopted. It had a very small beginning, with only five hands; now it employs from forty to fifty. It has adopted the system of weekly payments. The manufacture is chiefly charms and lockets in solid rolled plate. The only office is at the factory in town.

JOHN P. BONNETT started in business with George W. Cheever, as CHEEVER & BONNETT, in the rear factory of the Company's buildings in North Attleborough. In December, 1880, this firm dissolved partnership, and Mr. Bonnett then commenced on his own account in a very small shop on Elm Street, near "Foster's bridge." In 1885 he moved into his present quarters, a shop seventy feet long by twenty-five wide, just beside the old one. His business is that of electro-plating, electrotyping, and coloring of jewelry,

[1] The original firm was dissolved; but another under the same name has been formed, the members of which are Messrs. S. W. Gould and Frank W. and Oliver P. Bliss. [This firm has dissolved.]

and he also works on silverware. He employs from ten to twelve hands, and his monthly payments to the same range from $600 to $700. Mr. Bonnett does quite a large business and, considering the amount of capital invested, a very profitable one. [Now in Richards building.]

L. E. SADLER began in 1880 in Robinson's building to manufacture a "specialty" in rolled plate goods. This embraces lace and scarf pins, brooches, bracelets, studs, and collar-buttons. He keeps from ten to twenty-five hands employed, according to the conditions of business. [Now foreman for F. H. Sadler & Co.]

W. G. CLARK & Co. March 1, 1881, Walter G. Clark and John F. Mackinson started this firm, locating in F. S. Draper's building at North Attleborough. There has been no change excepting that of removing the business to B. S. Freeman's building at the Falls. The specialty of this firm is sleeve-buttons for both ladies and gentlemen, of rolled gold plate. It has an office at 196 Broadway, New York.

D. F. BRIGGS began on July 23, 1882, at the Falls, where he still continues to manufacture solid gold, silver, and rolled plate swivels; also, spring rings, bars, and chain trimmings, and vest and eyeglass chains, with findings and watch materials. His specialty is gold, silver, plate, and jet eyeglass chains. Mr. Briggs commenced with one employee and has now twenty-eight, his monthly payroll averaging about $700, an encouraging increase for five years. He has no out-of-town office. [Later Mr. Briggs associated with himself two partners, as the D. F. Briggs Company; still later he sold out and is now connected with W. F. Briggs & Co., Attleborough Falls.]

DAGGETT & CLAP. In August, 1882, Harvey Clap and H. M. Daggett, Jr., commenced manufacturing at Mansfield in the Kingman & Hodges shop. At the end of three days a failure of water-power occurred there. They immediately hired shop room of H. N. Daggett in the original old cotton mill at the Falls, moved their machinery and tools in the night, and were ready to go to work in the morning. In September, 1886, they made another move, to the third floor of Bates' new building in East Attleborough. The firm have already met with a gratifying measure of success, as they employ about sixty hands, to whom they pay weekly over $500. During 1886 they melted nearly $10,000 worth of gold in the making of heavy plate for the manufacture of a variety of ladies' goods, such as buttons, bracelets, initial goods, novelties, etc. There is an office belonging to this firm at 41 and 43 Maiden Lane, New York, and another at 82 Madison Street, Chicago.

H. H. CURTIS & Co. Henry H. Curtis and George H. Coggsill are the partners in this firm, and they organized in May, 1883, and located where they now are, in the Company's building at North Attleborough. They began with twenty hands, have now about thirty-five, and when business is

brisk their orders require about sixty-five. They have a specialty of sleeve-buttons for ladies and gentlemen, in rolled plate. There have been no changes in this firm and it has no out-of-town office. [Now in E. I. Richards' building.]

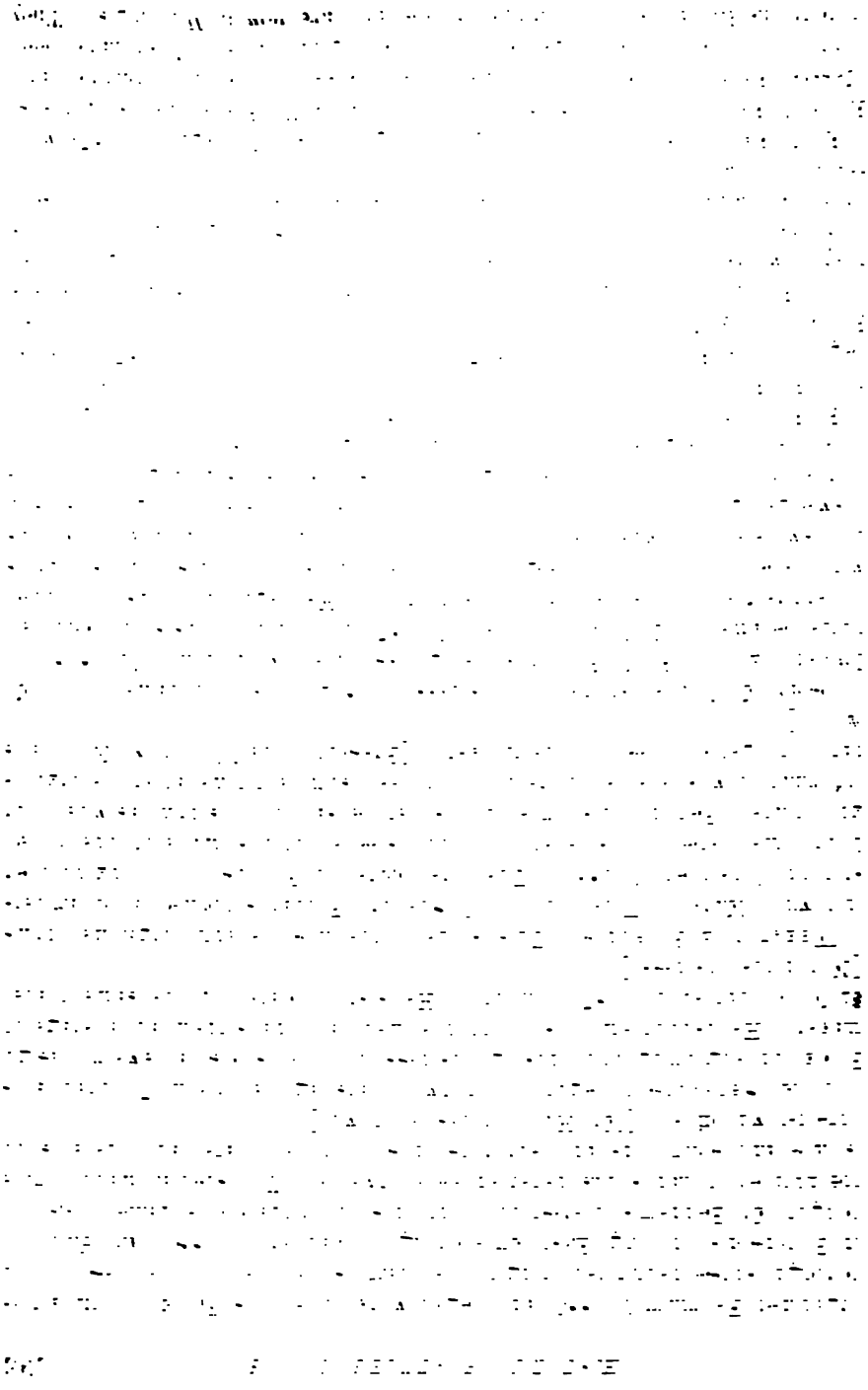
RILEY & FRENCH. The organization of this firm dates from June 1, 1883. There have been no changes in the firm and but one in location. They occupied a portion of the Dennis Everett factory on East Street in the beginning and are now in that of the Totten Brothers. The increase to be noted here is from fifteen to seventy-five employees in four years. The present weekly payroll is $600 to $700. This firm makes both solid gold and rolled-plate jewelry and a special ladies' sleeve-button with pin and chain attachment, of which manufacture it is the patentee. The members of this enterprising company are G. Herbert French and William H. Riley, Jr. They maintain an office at 178 Broadway, New York. [Present name RILEY, HEFFRON & FRENCH.]

F. S. GILBERT. In October, 1884, the firm of F. G. PATE & Co. sold out their tools, fixtures, etc., and these were purchased by Mr. Gilbert. He at once started work in the Union Power Company building with four hands and at present, when "running full time," employs thirty. His manufacture consists of both gold and gold-plated goods in articles for both ladies and gentlemen and in assorted lines. Mr. Gilbert has an office at 202 Broadway, New York, and his business is gaining steadily in size and extent.

C. R. HARRIS on retiring from the firm of HARRIS & FISHER in February, 1885, at once opened for himself in a new line of business. He began with charms, lockets, and emblems, and to these soon added a full line of chains, all being made of fine rolled plate. His manufactory and office are both on Union Street, East Attleborough. [Mr. Harris has left town.]

J. N. HUGO & Co. The firm of KNIGHT & BERRY was organized June 1, 1885, and it began to carry on business in the wooden building in the rear of Whiting's stone factory, where the present firm is still located. September 1, 1885, George Brownicker entered the firm and Co. was added to its name. November 1 of the same year Mr. Knight withdrew, but the name remained unchanged. December 1, 1885, John N. Hugo became a partner, and the name was then changed to HUGO & BERRY. October 25, 1886, Mr. Brownicker withdrew, and January 1, 1887, Mr. Berry also. At this time the name underwent another change, becoming as above, with John N. Hugo and John P. O'Connor as partners. The number of operatives varies from ten to thirty in different months. Lace, scarf, and shawl pins, brooches, bracelets, and eardrops are made, with a specialty of sleeve-buttons, in rolled gold plate and solid gold front work. The only office is at the factory on the third floor of the building before mentioned. [This firm is not in existence.]

T. J. HALLIDAY & Co. A firm under the style of BENNETT & HALLIDAY



have given employment to eighty hands in the making of gold front and plated goods of various kinds for ladies' wear. [Now in Whitney's building.]

SANDLAND, CAPRON & Co. started in the Richards "back factory" in 1876, and removed in 1881 to the Union Power Company building. They make a general line of plated goods for both ladies and gentlemen and furnish employment to about seventy-five workmen.

C. E. SMITH & Co. do quite a large business in solid jewelry, and they also make both real and imitation diamond jewelry. [The name of this firm is now BUGBEE & NILES.]

DEMAREST & BRADY. The present firm dates from 1877. Five years previous Mr. Demarest organized a stock company having nine associates, which carried on business in Wetherell's factory, at Plainville. In 1874 he sold out there and organized another stock company of five associates, under the style of DEMAREST & FISHER, which had its manufactory in the Richardson building, North Attleborough. In 1877 Mr. Demarest sold out here and formed a partnership with Mr. Brady. George Demarest and B. B. Brady are the only members of the firm, which is located in the Whiting Manufacturing Company building. It has a special make of sets, drops, studs, and scarfpins. Mr. Demarest originated the stock plan which has been followed by others with success.

MASON, DRAPER & Co. is another large firm, and is located in the Freeman shop at the Falls. It commenced manufacturing in 1870. It has in its employ about seventy-five men, and has a line of specialties in rolled stock plate, such as patent bracelets, ladies' sets, bar pins, etc., and has an office in New York at 176 Broadway. The members are M. H. and S. D. Mason and C. F. Draper. [This firm dissolved partnership and two firms subsequently formed are an outgrowth of it; namely, MASON & ROBBINS and the MASON JEWELRY CO., both at Attleborough Falls.]

SMITH & CROSBY are also among the larger companies in the east part of the town. The firm was established in 1872, with three members, W. H. Smith, A. R. Crosby, and C. E. Smith. The latter has since withdrawn, and the two former are the only partners. The firm makes a specialty of solid gold front goods, of which it produces a great variety, employing when business is good fifty hands and fifteen engravers.

W. H. WILMARTH & Co. is still another large firm in East Attleborough, and began its existence in 1872, with W. H. and J. C. Wilmarth, forming the then firm of WILMARTH BROTHERS, which began business in Robinson's old shop. In 1873 J. W. Luther was admitted to the firm, which was then styled LUTHER & WILMARTH BROTHERS. Shortly after Willard Wheeler became a partner, and the name LUTHER, WILMARTH BROTHERS & WHEELER. Messrs. J. C. Wilmarth, Luther, and Wheeler retired in succession, and in 1876 the entire business became vested in W. H. Wilmarth. The original manufacture was rolled plated chain; this was changed to brass and fire-

gilt chain; then buttons were taken up; and then again chain in electro-plate and also sleeve-buttons, with perhaps other varieties. This firm has at times given employment to a hundred and thirty-six hands.

[In May, 1890, Edwin B. Bullock bought this business, which he has continued under the same name, and for some years in the same building — Robinson's — where he occupied three floors, 45 by 80 feet in size, and employed from 160 to 175 operatives. The machinery in this establishment is very complete in all departments, "including steam power, rolling mills, presses, etc., a noticeable feature being the electro-plating apparatus, which is of the latest and most approved style." Mr. Bullock is the possessor of the curious chain-making machines formerly owned by F. G. Whitney & Co. A large variety of rolled gold jewelry "of all kinds and in all grades" is made here, but the principal specialties are "lever and separable sleeve and collar buttons, curb, rope, Geneva and fancy link ladies' and gents' chains, etc., in the best quality electro rolled plate." It is said "fifteen hundred styles of buttons are made here constantly, three hundred old being discarded and three hundred new and popular styles substituted each year — that is, about one fresh novelty for each working day." Among the most popular collar-buttons may be named the "Dandy," the "Daisy" and the "Crescent," and at times one hundred gross of each of these has been manufactured daily. Mr. Bullock uses many brilliants in his manufactures, and by a peculiar process of his own these are "made from glass canes," and a very large proportion of them are set by skilled lapidaries in his employ, thus materially reducing both cost and price of the goods and benefiting both producer and consumer. The trade of this firm extends to Europe, Australia, and Central and South America, and many of the manufactures are for foreign trade specially, never being exhibited in this country. The sales for the year 1890 or 1891 amounted to some $260,000. The New York office is at 176 Broadway, Room 11. In 1893 Mr. Bullock built a large shop on the corner of Hazel and School streets in the east part of the village, commencing operations there the first of September. It is three stories high, the main building 200 by 40 feet, the L 50 by 25 feet, and the office front 52 by 20 feet. The firm uses two floors, the upper being unoccupied. In January, 1894, a stock company was formed under the name of "The W. H. Wilmarth & Co. Corporation."]

Streeter Brothers made their first venture in the autumn of 1867 in the Steam Power Company factory, and later moved to the factory of W. D. Wilmarth on County Street, where they still are. They manufacture gilt jewelry with a specialty of chains, and employ some twenty-five or thirty hands. The members of the firm are Henry A. and John F. Streeter.

Daniel H. Smith was in the jewelry business for about twenty years,— beginning not far from 1866,— some of the time in connection with others, but for a number of years by himself. He was for some time located in Hayward's building making plated goods of several kinds, gentlemen's lockets being a specialty. He has recently made an entire change in his occupation and become an undertaker. He has rooms in Watson's Block, which are supplied with everything necessary for the proper conduct of that business. Mr. Smith is well fitted for this occupation and will fill a long-felt want.

Nelson Carpenter, since his withdrawal from the firm of Hayward & Carpenter, has conducted business for himself. He was at first in D. H. Smith's shop, and removed from that to his present location in the Bates building, 13 Mill Street. His employees number over thirty, and he makes chiefly pins, earrings, and scarfpins.

A. E. Dean began as a chaser about twenty years ago, and has always been

in the same location, at 270 Washington Street, North Attleborough. He has at times employed nine or ten men in this line of work, but at present, owing to the depression of business, is alone.[1]

E. V. JENNEY, successor to the firm of C. W. CHASE & Co., has been located in the Richards building since February 1, 1882. He makes a specialty of rolled-plate and fire-gilt rings. Just at present, business not being brisk, he is engaged in burnishing work. [He has since left town.]

DANIEL CROTTY is also located in the Richards factory, where he employs about ten hands in the making of electro-plate sleeve buttons. [He has gone out of this business.]

J. N. THOMSON & Co. are in the same factory — manufacturers of fine gold plate jewelry. This business has been recently established. [One or two changes were made in this business, but it had only a short existence.]

THOMAS TOTTEN & Co. have now a factory of their own near the depot in North Attleborough. They were among the firms burned out in 1882 in the Richardson factory. Their goods are rolled-gold plated chains, chain trimmings, and chain bracelets. They have also been very successful in the making of flat plated chains. They furnish work for about sixty employees.

Many other companies have been organized during the hundred years since this industry began its existence here that are no longer in any way represented. Some have been merged into others, and some have ceased to exist by being dissolved — such for instance as THE UNION JEWELRY Co., formed in 1855 or 1856, changed later to THOMPSON, RICHARDSON & Co., and finally in 1861 terminated by dissolution. There are also many others at present in existence of which no special mention is here made. It should be said that recent facts have been furnished in a rather dull time, and the figures in many instances, therefore, are to be taken as something of a discount upon the true average.

For many years this trade has furnished employment for women as well as men. They were first employed in the offices in putting the goods on to cards and packing them in boxes, and for quite a long period occupation was given at various homes in the making of chain. Both these are pleasant and moderately lucrative occupations. At the present time women are employed by some firms quite largely in other departments. It is said they are quicker in some kinds of work than men, and they do not command as high wages, which is of course an advantage to the employer. Several firms also employ women as bookkeepers.

Some years ago the *Chronicle* gathered some statistics relating to the condition of the jewelry business at that time. These were published in its issue of November 15, 1879. The statements are from fifty-three firms and are

[1] The "at present" — "now," etc., throughout this chapter refer to the spring of 1887 — previous to the division of the town.

said to include the larger portion of the manufactories then in town, with the exception of those in South and West Attleborough, which would give an increase of only four or five. The figures given were for the month of September, 1879. The fifty-three firms were employing 2,081 hands with an aggregate payroll of $101,461. The goods shipped during that month were worth the large sum of $398,210. Several firms declined to give statistics, and the *Chronicle* made an estimate of these as employing 372 hands with a payroll of $19,750 and a shipment of $83,000, which makes a large addition to the above given figures. The average rate of wages was "just about" $2 per day. The largest number of hands employed in any one shop was 125. There were five firms that together employed 525. The largest payroll was $6,100, and the five largest aggregated $24,900. The largest shipment by any one firm amounted to $32,500, and five firms shipped in the month to the amount of $123,314. To-day there are one hundred manufacturing establishments in town, and to carry out some of the above figures there should be now about 3,900 employees, and, the proportions being the same for a given month, a payroll of $191,435 and a shipment amounting to the sum of $751,339. Large as these figures appear, they are probably less than the true aggregate. To the hundred manufactories mentioned above must be added twenty establishments now in existence, engaged in other branches of the trade — enamelers, engravers, chasers, refiners, makers of jewelers' findings, etc., but all directly connected with and a part of it. There is no other *town* in the country where so large a business of this nature is done. Providence, R. I., and Newark, N. J., are largely interested in the manufacture of jewelry, but no comparison with them can be made, as they are both large cities.

In what has been said of this great enterprise no attempt has been made to trace its growth in any one portion of the town as compared with another. At the present writing no division has been effected; we are still *the town* of Attleborough. To the outside world certainly the credit due any part is due the whole. Whatever the near or the far future may have in store, the first century of our chronicles of jewelry belongs to the good old single town of Attleborough; therefore in the preceding sketch no sectional lines have been drawn, but from the material at hand the facts have been arranged chiefly by date — though with some irregularities — and without much regard to locality. Only a mere sketch of this business has been attempted, not a history — that complete would of itself fill the pages of a very large volume. But if some little idea of its rise and progress has been given, and any at all adequate conception of its magnitude can be formed by people whose personal knowledge of it may be limited, the desired purpose will have been fully accomplished.

[During the years since the above chapter was written many changes have taken place in firms and their locations, and such of them as have been ascertained have been mentioned with

the particular notices. New firms have also been formed, but such obviously cannot with propriety have special mention, as the division made an end to the history of Attleborough proper. New buildings have been erected by several firms, such as Codding Brothers, who have built a shop on Jay Street, near Elm, in North Attleborough, and an addition has been made to the J. E. Draper & Co. building in the same village. J. M. Bates has also built another shop at East Attleborough, and other buildings there have already been mentioned.

Many changes have occurred in the style and kind of goods produced as the demands of a fickle, fluctuating market require. Sometimes this change is simply an addition to the original production, which is continued, as in the case of O. M. Draper, who, besides his original specialty of fire-gilt goods, makes a line of rolled-plate chains; again there may be a cessation for the time being of the old productions for lines entirely new, as with H. H. Curtis & Co., who are confining themselves to novelties — though of a large variety — in silver goods. Such, too, is the case with Blake & Claflin, who make now very little of their old style of jewelry, but are manufacturing a great variety of sterling silver articles, such as individual butter plates, salt-cellars with spoons, ladies' combs, fancy hairpins, bonnet-pins, belt-buckles, and many other small things, such as paper-cutters, penholders, umbrella tags, etc., for both ornament and use; while for gentlemen especially suspender clasps, key-rings, knives, cigar-cutters, and pocket matchsafes may be mentioned, the latter being their specialty and numbering several hundred different styles and patterns in shape and finish. These and some other articles are made also in solid gold. Watson & Newell have for some time been making a great many spoons of varied shapes and decorations, specimens of which may be bought in cities all over the country as souvenirs of each place. It is said that thousands of the souvenir spoons sold in every department of the World's Fair, from the Midway Plaisance to the Liberal Arts Building, were made by different firms here, while a great many articles of jewelry sold as specimens of the production or handicraft of the country offering them — whether Egypt, Bulgaria, Turkey, or Spain — were made in the shops of our Eastern States, and no doubt their full proportion in our towns.

A new line of manufacture has recently been taken up by French & Franklin, of North Attleborough, in silver filigree, which much resembles and apparently equals the famous delicate Genoese work of that description. The specimens seen by the writer were extremely pretty; a little grand piano two or three inches long but quite perfect in proportion and finish, a tiny street car with windows of real glass, and quite small enough for the most diminutive fairy horse to draw, with chairs, tables and sofas all fit for the use of the daintiest elfin queen, in quaint and beautiful designs. Examples of this nature might be multiplied almost indefinitely, and to none would the variety and number of articles of exquisite design and beautiful workmanship manufactured in the two towns be more of a surprise than to a large number of our inhabitants themselves. One may purchase in many of the leading jewelry and silverware establishments of our cities articles of elegance and price, bearing the trademark of the firm selling them, which were made within the limits of what was so long known as the town of Attleborough.

A mere glance at statistics or facts serves to make the proportions which this business has assumed seem amazing. Its products have penetrated to the "ends of the earth," and gained for our territory a wide reputation. It is true that this is often referred to by the application of that familiar and rather derisive epithet of "cheap jewelry town," and indeed we might be very well content, if nothing further was done, with the reputation that same cheap jewelry deserves, — for a great deal of cunning, skill, and ingenuity have been required in the development of that branch of the trade, and the goods are in every respect exactly and only what they claim to be, — but we know that our manufacturers are capable of a much higher grade of work than those goods exhibit, and that they are constantly conceiving and producing articles, cleverly combining in new and pleasing fashion both ancient and modern forms of beauty, which need not fear competition with others of their kind anywhere for real artistic merit in style, workmanship, or design.]

CHAPTER XIV.

SOCIETIES, ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

IN the early part of this century two social societies were formed in town, which flourished for a number of years. One of these was called "The Attleboro' Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts, and Social Intercourse." The constitution of this society was ratified February 22, 1804, with forty-nine members, many of them men whose names were familiar to the town records, as they were prominently engaged in the public affairs of their day, and like names are familiar to the ears of the present generation, — as Elisha May, Joel Ellis, Joseph Tiffany, Carlos Barrows, Joel Read, Noah Claflin, etc. The constitution contained eight articles, and in all some forty-five sections. Its provisions were certainly ample and "covered the entire ground." It seems to have been constructed somewhat upon the plan of the sermons of its date, especially in the number of "heads" it comprised. The requirements of membership were as follows: "The qualifications necessary in order to be admitted a member of this society are, adult age, a good moral character, a satisfactery knowledge of this Constitution, and mental endowments competent to understand and promote the designs of this institution." Honorary members were also elected.

The society's annual meetings were held on February 22, as an expression of veneration to Washington, "the patron of order, and the friend of man." On this date in 1805 an address, a copy of which has been presented[1] to the library in East Attleborough, was delivered before the society by the Rev. John Wilder, A.M., his subject being "Man and his Intellect," etc., ending with a fine peroration upon Washington. The other regular meetings were held "on the Monday next preceding the full moon in the months of October, November, December, January, March and April," and sometimes a meeting was held in July, should the society so appoint. This society was incorporated in 1816. Its library contained about three hundred volumes. The books were of a very substantial character, such as Burke's Works, in four volumes, Adams' Defence of the Constitution, Belknap's History of New Hampshire, Robertson's History of Charles the Fifth, etc. Our grandfathers knew little of novels and romances, and fortunately they were fewer then than now. This society had a hall in connection with the schoolhouse in West Attleborough where its meetings were held. Before 1800 Moses Read gave a lot of four acres for a training field and later this building was erected on the lot, the same on which the "Old Powder House" now stands. The building was the district schoolhouse and the cost of its erection was shared by the association, which occupied the upper floor for its books and meetings. At these debating gatherings the order, it is said, was to have addresses of an hour's length, followed by the social part of the evening — the tapping of the liquor kegs and the discussions on politics, etc.

The other society was called "The Social Library and Farmers' Historical and Geographical Society." This was established in 1805, founded, it is said, by Dr. Capron. The library contained about two hundred volumes, and in it might be found such books as Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Watts' Hymns, Baxter's Saints' Rest, and others of a similar nature, with doubtless geographical, historical, and agricultural works. At the annual meetings addresses were delivered by such eminent men as Tristam Burgess. Somewhere about 1835 these libraries were divided among the members by auction and the societies were dissolved.

A Lyceum was established in 1830. Nothing beyond this fact is known of that organization.

An agricultural library was formed in East Attleborough many years ago, which contained some useful works on farming. It was started by a Boston man, who sold the shares at five dollars apiece. In the course of a few years this was united with a more miscellaneous library, having about one hundred and forty volumes.

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[1] By Mr. Joseph W. Capron.

ATTLEBOROUGH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

In the autumn of 1857 Mrs. Handel N. Daggett brought from "western New York" to this town the idea of "Mite Societies." The first meeting of the kind held here was in November of that year at the residence of John Daggett, from thirty to forty persons being present. A hat was passed among them for a contribution of "mites," and the amount raised was $1.35. This small fund was the nucleus of the association. Meetings took place occasionally, and during the following year some books were purchased. Mr. C. J. Thompson had these in charge in his periodical store, on the site now occupied by Briggs' Block. The early records are very meagre. The first known report bears date March 10, 1860, and during that year, at least, John Daggett was president of the association, and the library numbered one hundred and thirty-seven volumes.

The approaching war naturally at this time absorbed the attention of everybody and interfered with literary organizations. The next record known is of a meeting held January 6, 1863, when it was voted that the association should unite with the Agricultural Library Association. The exact date when this union was consummated is not known, but it was some time during 1864. On March 30 of that year the then president, Dr. J. R. Bronson, with L. M. Stanley, A. M. Everett, and John Daggett, were chosen a committee to revise the constitution and by-laws. In a warrant for a meeting to be held March 19, 1865, was this article: "To see what measures, if any, the association will take with regard to those holding shares in the Agricultural Library." This article was laid on the table and two different meetings were adjourned without action being taken upon it.

Just previous to this time, in January, 1865, the idea of becoming a library corporation had been started. A petition for a warrant to call a meeting, signed by ten gentlemen, was presented to Mr. Joseph Capron, who called a meeting for February 6, when it was voted to organize and become a body corporate. A constitution and by-laws were drawn up and adopted on February 11, and on March 6 the following officers were elected: J. W. Capron, president; Charles E. Bliss, vice-president; A. M. Everett, secretary and treasurer. It was also voted at that time to transfer the property of the "Association" to the "Corporation." This proceeding was somewhat irregular, but is explained by the fact that the members of the one body transferred themselves as well as the property to the other. Mr. Capron held the office of president until 1874; then George N. Crandall until 1876, when Amos Ide was elected. He did much for the benefit of the society. In 1878 George P. Fitts was elected to this office, and in 1880 G. F. Bicknell.

After the books were removed from Mr. Thompson's store they were placed in charge of Mr. A. M. Everett, who was then occupying a store on North Main Street. In 1872 they were in Miss H. N. Capron's store on the same street, just above Park Street. On January 1, 1874, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Cobb bought some of the books and opened a library in the last-mentioned store on their own account. This circulating library consisted chiefly of novels and books of travel, and reached some five hundred and fifty volumes in size. They relinquished this library after some years, but what disposition they made of their books does not appear, unless, as is probable, they came into the hands of the association. A Mr. Stetson had charge of the library for some time, first under Union Hall and later in Briggs' Block, to which place he removed, and still later Miss Mengel had charge of it there. The purchase of new books was nominally in charge of officers of the association, but was at times delegated to ladies.

For a short time, from March, 1884, till July, 1885, when the affairs of the association seemed to be at a rather low ebb, a private circulating library, containing two hundred and five volumes, was kept by George H. Herrick at his jewelry store. He still has the books in his possession, but after the other library started up again it ceased to pay for keeping it open.

ATTLEBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The desirability of having a free library established upon a permanent basis had long been felt and talked about, and the preliminary steps in that direction were taken January 15, 1885. At that time a committee was chosen to appoint another committee, which should, as soon as possible, report upon the best method of arranging a permanent organization. This work was done and on February 2, 1885, an association was formed and called "The Attleborough Public

Library." By-laws were adopted at that time and the committee recommended that eighteen directors should be chosen. The following officers were elected: President, E. S. Horton; Vice-President, Miss Mary J. Capron; Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. C. S. Holden, all of whom still hold these offices. Subscriptions were at once solicited and also gifts of books and other things and in every way the responses were generous. The largest single gift in money was $100 and the smallest gift 50 cents. At the time of the opening of the library there were one hundred and seven persons who had paid the necessary two-dollar membership tax. Over $1,600 had been expended and near $100 more pledged.

In 1878 the old library catalogued 708 volumes, which number had so increased that the new association received from it 825 volumes. Some of these were, however, worthless and many had to be rebound. At the opening the present library had 1,700 volumes, and at present there are 3,025. It has two rooms in Horton's block which are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from two till nine o'clock P.M., under the charge of the librarian, Mrs. M. A. Mowton. (1887.)

The association is at present entirely dependent upon voluntary subscriptions, with the exception of the trifling sum obtained from fines; but an attempt has recently been made to obtain the income of the Richardson School Fund for its benefit. This fund, as has been seen, was limited to the use of a few districts, and as these are now abolished and the town is abundantly able to provide for all the needs of the public schools, it has been deemed advisable, as it certainly is desirable, to expend this income in such a manner as to do the most good possible and to the largest number. The consent of the majority of the heirs of the Richardson estate to the carrying out of the suggested plan has been obtained and the following report presented to the Supreme Court of the State for legal adjustment:—

"The first board of Trustees of the Richardson School Fund were elected by the second Parish or Precinct of Attleboro at a parish meeting held March 28th 1846.—

"At a parish meeting held March 25, 1848, 'The Trustees of the Richardson School Fund reported that they had received of John Daggett, Esq. executor of the estate of Abiathar A. Richardson $11,000, on the 22d. day of Feb. A.D. 1847 and had loaned the same on real estate securities, and on the 22d of Feb. A.D. 1848 had divided among the school districts in said parish nine and one half months interest, viz: $529.90 agreeable to said will of Abiathar A. Richardson, which report was accepted.'

"The first apportionment of the income of fund to the school districts as appears from the records was made Feb. 22, 1848 amt $539.00.

"The last apportionment was made Feb. 22, 1882, amt $710.04"

The decision of the court being favorable, the library will be placed upon a thoroughly substantial footing, and no longer subjected to the vacillations of general charity. The greatest remaining need of the association will then be a suitable building of its own. It is to be hoped that before very long as beautiful a Memorial Hall will be built in this part of the Rehoboth North Purchase as has recently been erected in Rehoboth old town.[1]

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Some fifteen years prior to the formation of the last-mentioned association a similar one was formed in North Attleborough. A meeting of the citizens of that village was held October 24, 1870, in the vestry of the old Universalist church "to consider the feasibility of establishing a Public Library." A committee was at that time chosen to mature a proper plan, but no record of its members' names appears to have been made. There were present at this meeting Rev. J. D. Pierce, Simeon Bowen, Esq., B. Porter, Jr., John Thompson, Henry Rice, John

[1] The matter of the requested disposition of the "School Fund" has not yet been decided by the court, but at the annual spring meeting in 1888 the town voted to assume the support of the library, and therefore without the income of this fund its financial status for the future is assured. The affairs of the library are in the hands of nine trustees appointed by the town, three being appointed each year for a term of three years. This board is composed of both ladies and gentlemen. The present quarters of the library — the two rear rooms on the first floor of Sturdy's Block — are more convenient and commodious than those in Horton's Block. The librarian is Mrs. Nellie A. Blackinton (1894).

Stanley, and a few others. The first recorded committee was an executive committee appointed at a meeting held shortly subsequent to the above-mentioned date, and consisting of the following gentlemen: Rev. J. D. Pierce, Simeon Bowen, B. Porter, Jr., Henry Rice, and Felix G. Whitney. The first officers chosen were: President, Rev. J. D. Pierce; Vice-President, S. S. Ginnodo; Treasurer, F. G. Whitney; Secretary, O. C. Turner. It was agreed that the amount required to constitute life membership should be twenty-five dollars, payable, if so desired, in instalments within two years from the date of the first payment made, and annual dues were placed at one dollar. These were afterwards raised to two dollars, but in 1872 again placed at the original sum.

The library was first opened in Willard Hall's house. At that time five hundred members of the association had paid one dollar each. The number of life members, if any, is not known, but the number of volumes was five hundred, purchased at a cost of about $600, and selected by B. Porter, Jr., and Henry Rice. The number of volumes was soon increased to six hundred, and this increase was largely due to the efforts of Mrs. Charles E. Smith, who was active in raising the sum of $100 to procure another hundred volumes "to add to the first purchase, she naming the books to be purchased." Financial difficulties arose after a time, and it was proposed that these be met by securing ten persons to become life members by the payment of the necessary sum, $25, and this was done some time during the second year of the existence of the association. To the efforts of those present at the first meeting held in 1870 the library association owes its existence, and to the ten persons who in 1872 became life members, its continuation.

In December, 1873, it was voted to hire a room in Kendall's Block and open a reading-room, which was done, and the suggestion made by Mr. F. G. Whitney that twenty-five gentlemen be asked to subscribe $25 each met with a generous number of responses and the funds were thus comfortably increased. At this time the number of volumes, exclusive of public documents, was 766. This association continued under voluntary support for five years, at the end of which time, in October, 1875, it was unanimously voted "that the property of the association be transferred to the Union Improvement District, subject to the indebtedness of said association, and in accordance with the vote of said district." The property was all to be given to the district, which in turn voted to support the library by the payment of a sum not to exceed $500 per annum.

The library was for a time in the Odd Fellows Building, but is at present again in Kendall's Block. There are 3,000 volumes and all the leading magazines are subscribed for by the association. There is no special reading-room, but there are accommodations in the library room for visitors desiring to read there. A new card catalogue has recently been issued which is a great improvement upon the previous catalogues. It gives the names of authors and such of their publications as are in the library, and also describes these books so that any person giving a writer's name can at once ascertain which of his books are to be found in the library, and also of what they treat; or, knowing only the subject or title of any work, can easily learn the author of the same. This catalogue, which is manifestly a great convenience and an economizer of time, was arranged with great care and at a cost of much time and trouble by Mr. Maxson, and to him are due the sincerest thanks, not only of the librarians, but of all those persons throughout the entire village who make use of the contents of the library. The books here are accessible to the public on two afternoons and three evenings during the week and are in charge of a librarian and three assistants.

Rev. J. D. Pierce held the office of president during the five years of the existence of the association as a separate organization; S. S. Ginnodo, F. G. Pate, and Rev. J. S. Beers that of vice-president; O. C. Turner, E. K. Dunbar, and E. R. Price that of secretary; and F. G. Whitney that of treasurer. Ella I. Barden, now Mrs. G. Eugene Fisher, was the first librarian, and she served two years. Succeeding her and previous to the transfer of the property to the Improvement District the position was occupied by Kate S. Bailey and William Usher. The early prudential committees, as nearly as could be ascertained, were as follows: first, Henry Rice, John Stanley, S. S. Ginnodo, O. C. Turner, and B. Porter, Jr.; in 1873, B. Porter, Jr., S. S. Ginnodo, Rev. J. S. Beers, George W. Cheever, and E. K. Dunbar; in 1874, B. Porter, Jr., John Stanley, F. G. Pate, G. W. Cheever, and Albert Totten, and by them the transfer was made. The librarian in 1887 was John Ward. The prudential committee were

Henry M. Maxson, E. I. Franklin, and C. C. Peck, the first named being superintendent and having charge of the purchases of books, etc. [At its annual meeting in the spring of 1889 the town of North Attleborough voted to assume all the duties and responsibilities of the Improvement District, the management and support of the library among them, and about this time the removal to the present rooms in Boyle Block occurred. Miss Irene W. Day was made librarian, and still continues in the position. The affairs of the library are placed in the hands of a board of six trustees. These are chosen by the town, "two each year for a term of three years." The annual appropriation has for a number of years been $1,500. The library now contains about 3,500 books, and from 300 to 350 volumes are added yearly. In 1893 Mrs. John Tweedy, Miss Harriet T. and Mr. E. Ira Richards "announced their purpose to build for the town a library building, to be called the Richards Memorial Library," in memory of their father and mother, Edmund Ira and Lucy Morse Richards. They have already purchased a suitable lot on the corner of Washington and Grove streets, for about $6,000, and building operations have commenced. It has been estimated that the entire cost of the memorial will be not far from $25,000. The board of Trustees at the time this offer was made consisted of the following named persons: Chairman, Edward R. Price; Secretary, Rev. George E. Osgood; Miss Leda J. Thompson, Joseph B. Gerould, M.D., and John P. Bonnett. There was one vacancy "through failure to qualify." North Attleborough is most fortunate in being the recipient of so noble a gift — one bestowed with a large generosity and in unrestricted entirety. In no other way probably could a gift be made whose good results would be so widespread — diffusing themselves abroad in a never-ending and ever-increasing ratio — for every present and future inhabitant of the town, whether high or low, rich or poor, may avail himself or herself of the advantages accruing from it, at will. The memorial is a proof not only of the liberality, but of the true loyalty of the members of this family to the town of their birth. For this indeed they are specially worthy of praise, because the trait is rather rare, and in every way they are deserving of the sincere and continued gratitude of the whole town for thus bestowing upon it a perpetual, practical benefit.

The building is Renaissance in style and to be built of "brick and terra-cotta resting on a foundation of Warsaw bluestone, of which the steps and bases of the columns are also made." Light cream terra-cotta forms various trimmings, and "the roof is to be covered with a dark red slate flashed and ornamented with quaint little copper dormers, in the windows of which will swing white latticed sashes." The porch will be supported by Ionic columns of terra-cotta, and in the centre of the wall space which it encloses will be a tablet of Sienna marble "bearing a suitable inscription." The entrance leads to a square vestibule wainscoted in quartered oak, of which wood the heavy outside door is to be made. The interior will be in its general effect one room, sixty-seven feet long and thirty feet wide, with a ceiling elliptical in form and reaching a height of eighteen feet in the centre, but "divided by paneled partitions nine feet in height into three rooms, the central of which is the reception hall or distribution room." On the right is the bookroom, occupying a space of twenty by thirty feet, "calculated to hold eventually 14,500 volumes," and at the left is the reading-room twenty-four and a half feet long by thirty wide, "from one corner of which extends a circular recessed alcove containing a bookcase designed for reference books."

This room "is wainscoted nine feet high, and at the end opposite its entrance is a broad open fireplace of brick tile and wrought iron, with a shelf of polished marble, supported by faïence consoles. At either side of the fireplace are set broad paneled pilasters of wood which will be exquisitely carved. The cornice which is supported by these pilasters is identical in height with the wainscoting of the room, and forms the base to a round arched recess and at the same time a resting-place for portraits of the late Edmund Ira and Lucy M. Richards, in memory of whom the building is erected." A wing in the rear will contain a room eleven and a half by sixteen and a half feet in size with an open fireplace, devoted to the uses of the librarian and trustees.

"The finish of the interior is Renaissance in style, and the same dull red and old ivory effect obtained for the exterior is here reflected in a softer, more delicate and refined way in accordance with the finer detail here employed. Here the wainscoting is old ivory in tone, the doors, tables, counters and seats mahogany, which represents the yellowish red desired, and the ceiling, which is elliptical, is tinted in a soft dull red." Cypress is used in the bookroom with

eight cases at first, there being space within for more when required, and without, ground room is reserved for a wing for books should the library largely increase. A combination of direct and indirect steam heating will be used, with ample provision for proper ventilation, and the incandescent system of electric lighting employed. Gould, Angell & Swift, of Providence and Boston, are the architects, and Messrs. Houlihan & Maguire, of Providence, the builders.

On June 16, 1894, the cornerstone of this building was laid with the elaborate Masonic ritual, by officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. The day was beautiful and notwithstanding the intense heat a large number of people gathered in the portion of Washington Street from the Wamsutta House to Grove Street and collected about the site of the building whose foundation walls had been floored over to accommodate the specially invited guests. The procession consisted — in order — of a detachment of fire police, Hedley's National Band of Providence, and delegations from Bristol Commandery Knights Templars of North Attleborough, King Hiram Royal Arch Chapter of Attleborough, Keystone Royal Arch Chapter of Foxborough, Ezekiel Bates Lodge of Attleborough, St. James Lodge of Mansfield, St. Albans Lodge of Foxborough, and Bristol Lodge of North Attleborough, numbering upwards of two hundred men, with fourteen grand officers.

The program commenced with an overture by the band, followed by a hymn sung by the famed Temple Quartet of Boston; Mr. E. R. Price, chairman of the library trustees, made request that the cornerstone be laid, and the Deputy Grand Master replied; selections of Scripture were read responsively by the Grand Chaplain and the Brethren, followed by prayer, and then the reading of the list of contents of the box by the Grand Treasurer. Some forty or fifty articles were placed in the box, consisting of historical and memorial sketches of members of the Richards family, with several photographs, a history of the library, a catalogue of the same, town reports, numerous Masonic papers, — organizations of lodges, by-laws, etc., — several town newspapers and a *Providence Journal*, copies of the letters of donation of the building and its acceptance by the town, a record written by Miss Harriet T. Richards, a sealed envelope with the indorsement "To whom it may concern in future years," etc. The jewels were then applied to the cornerstone; "the Deputy Grand Master spread the cement assisted by the chairman of the library committee, and the stone was lowered into place;" the libations of corn and wine and oil were poured each by a special officer and each followed by an appropriate hymn by the quartet; a prayer by the Grand Chaplain, and the presentation of the working tools to the representative of the architects followed, and then the Deputy Grand Master made a short address which he closed as follows, with sentiments all present could most heartily endorse: "May the cornerstone safely rest, a symbol of the permanence of truth and justice. May the Richards Memorial Library building stand, not simply an ornament to this town, but be the means of great good. May it perpetuate the memory of the virtues of that family whose name it bears and stand as a monument of filial regard and affection." The Grand Marshal proclaimed the cornerstone laid, the quartet sang a fine invocation hymn, the Grand Chaplain pronounced the benediction, and with the rendering of The Star-Spangled Banner by the band the ceremonies were brought to a close.

The procession re-formed and marched to the rooms of Bristol Lodge. The Grand Officers, with Past Masters of the Blue Lodges, were handsomely entertained with an elaborate dinner at the "Maples," and the visiting lodges with a collation at Wamsutta Hall. To all appreciative persons that was indeed a red-letter day in the annals of the old village and the new town of North Attleborough, and there can be but one to surpass it in interest, that day when, the beautiful building completed, it shall be dedicated to its destined uses by the opening of its doors to the public, and the great good, now a future anticipation, shall begin to be a present realization. We cannot close this brief sketch of the Memorial Library with more fitness than to quote a sentence from the *Evening Chronicle*, to whose columns we are indebted for much of what it contains: "The generosity of the Richards family will go down into the years that are to come."]

There is another library in North Attleborough, Razee's Library, which was opened about 1874. This is entirely a private enterprise, not in any degree a philanthropic one, and claims to be conducted on purely business principles. It contains a goodly number of the new and popular books of the day, and these being acceptable to the general public it is largely patronized, and is therefore in a prosperous condition financially.

MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.

This town had at one time four organized companies of militia, and one company of cavalry whose members were chiefly from the town, and one independent foot company. One company, it is certain, was also organized during the war of 1812, for special service, and there may have been other such. Nothing has been ascertained regarding the cavalry company beyond the fact of its existence, and very little relating to the four militia companies. The names of their captains have been ascertained, however, and these are given in the order of their service.[1]

NORTH COMPANY.

Mayhew Daggett,
John Robinson,
Jabez Ellis,
Jonathan Stanley,
John Stearns,
Ebenezer Bacon,
Israel Hatch,
Obed Robinson,
Jacob Graves,
George Bacon,
Israel Hatch, Jr.,
William Walcott,
Elihu Daggett,
Chester Bugbee,
Timothy E. Robinson.

EAST COMPANY.

John Daggett,
Stephen Richardson,
Moses Wilmarth,
Abiathar Richardson,
Caleb Parmenter,
Thomas French,
Jonathan Follett,
Jonathan Wilmarth,
Abiathar Richardson, Jr.,
Benjamin Polcom (Bolkcom?),
Edward Richardson,
Elkanah Briggs,
Samuel Carpenter,
Willard Blackinton.

SOUTH COMPANY.

John Foster,
Samuel Tyler,
Ebenezer Tyler,
Jacob Ide,
Joseph Tiffany,
Ebenezer Tyler, Jr.,
Daniel Read,
Ira K. Miller,
Harvey Ide,
Nathan H. Bliss.

WEST COMPANY.

Joseph Brown,
Elisha May,
Japheth Bicknell,
Timothy Gay,
Samuel Tingley,
Sylvanus Tingley,
Clark Sweetland,
Joel Robinson,
Samuel Slack,
Joseph Holmes.

The names of the first captains show that these companies must have been organized in the days of the war of the Revolution, and they were all in existence in 1834. Some years prior to that time several of our militia men figured prominently in a very interesting occurrence. In 1828 there was a brigade muster in Berkeley,[2] this State. The force consisted of five regiments, one squadron of cavalry, and one battalion of artillery; of this force the Fourth Regiment was commanded by Colonel Ira K. Miller, the squadron of cavalry by Major Jonathan Bliss, and the battalion of artillery by Major Seneca Sanford, all of this town.

The independent company's charter name was the "Washington Rifle Corps of Attleborough."[3] In 1815 a petition was addressed to the Governor and Executive Council of the Com-

[1] The Editor is indebted to the late Lyman W. Daggett, for this list of captains' names.

[2] The incident, recently published in some newspaper, had connection with the so-called Nichols house in Berkeley, which was burned not long ago. The muster was on a field near that house. — EDITOR.

[3] For most of the information relating to this famous rifle corps I am indebted to Mr. Edward R. Price, who courteously loaned me the book of the company's records. This came into his possession on the death of his father, the last captain. Judging rightly, I am sure that the words of the old records themselves will carry more interest to the reader than any others, no matter how well chosen. I have let them tell their own story as far as possible. — EDITOR.

monwealth, signed by Martin Whitney and forty others, stating that the subscribers had long held a favorable opinion as to the advisability of raising volunteer companies when it could be done without "essential injury to the local Militia." They pledged themselves to obtain proper uniforms and equipments, to conform to all the rules binding upon such organizations elsewhere, and to "hold themselves in a regular state of preparation to march in defence of this State, at a moment's warning, to any place where their assistance shall be lawfully demanded." They declared themselves actuated by neither passion, prejudice, nor a spirit of change, but as having the real interest and true welfare of the Commonwealth at heart, and its "great Military importance, with its political consequence, and proper influence," and they stated that "to add a laurel to the Majestic brow of their native State, would give them great satisfaction." For these and other reasons set forth in glowing terms, they "presume to petition" for the desired charter, and at the same time recommend the bearer, who must have been Mr. Whitney, to his "Excellency," as "a Gentleman of honor," who is competent and ready to answer all necessary questions, and "they flatter themselves" that under all the circumstances, "manner and matter of petition," etc., it will be favorably received.

In this they were right, and their charter was granted June 9, 1815, and "by the Governor approved." The company was to be raised within the limits of the Fourth Regiment, Second Brigade, and Fifth Division of the Militia, and "annexed to the said 4th. Reg. provided that the Standing Companies of Militia are not reduced thereby to a less number than is required by law." The following order was received by Mr. Whitney: —

Head Quarters, New Bedford, July 3, 1815.

Brigade Orders.

Mr. Martin Whitney, Sir,

agreeably to General Orders of the 9 Division Orders of the 16. Ult°, you are hereby directed to assemble with your associates in a petition for raising a Company of Rifle Corps, at the House of Capt. Benjn Bolkcom, Inn-holder in Attleborough, on Thursday the third day of August next, at two o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of electing the necessary Officers for said Company. You will give each individual at least ten days notice.

Lieut. Col. Shepherd Leach of the 4th Reg't. will preside at said Election, receive the inlistment agreeable to the provisions of the foregoing orders, and to make returns accordingly.

(Signed) Benjn Lincoln, { Brigr Gen. 2d Brigade.

The usual rules and regulations governing such companies were framed and adopted. It may be of interest to some persons to know who the members of this company were, so the list is transcribed as found on the muster-roll. The number varied from year to year largely, the highest number on any return being fifty-five, and the smallest twenty-four. The names of the different commanders are: First, Elihu Daggett, Jr., captain from 1815 to 1822; second, Chester Bugbee, from 1822 to 1824; third, William Everett, from 1824 to 1827; fourth, Willard Robinson, from 1827 to 1829; fifth, Virgil Blackinton, in 1829; sixth, David E. Holman, from 1830 till, seventh, George Price became captain. The date of his election could not be found, but he remained the commander until the company was disbanded. The following is the list of members, doubtless including all from the formation to the disbandment: —

Elihu Daggett, Jr.,	Earle Whiting,	Josiah Draper, 2d,
Chester Bugbee,	Willard Robinson,	Charles Whiting,
Judson Blake,	Job Richards,	Manning Stanley,
Martin Whitney,	George Derby,	John N. Dean,
John R. Robinson,	Jacob P. Stanley,	Wm. S. Robinson,
Waterman T. Dexter,	Peleg H. Kent,	Richard Robinson,
Saml O. Draper,	Wm. M. Wilmarth,	Warren Morse,
George Stanley,	John F. Richards,	Avery Gillmore,
Wm. T. Dean,	Marcus Daggett,	Benjamin Freeman,
Gulliver Dean,	Davis Guild,	Seth C. Sprague,
Willard Towne,	Thomas Richards,	Ira Richards,
Hermon Stanley,	Jacob Daggett,	Fisher Blackinton,

Lyman Pitcher,
Calvin Richards,
Payton Richards,
Spencer Richards,
Nathaniel Rand, Jr.,
Seamans Whiting,
Joseph Guild,
Leonard Blackinton,
Rufus S. Perry,
James Blackinton,
Samuel Newell, 3d,
Ellis Fisher,
Ichabod Richards,
Horatio N. Draper,
Barton I. Draper,
John Montgomery,
Jason B. Blackinton,
Daniel F. Ellis,
Willard D. Blackinton,
John Draper, Jr.,
Jonathan Day,
Hiram W. Titus,
Willard Richards,
Sam[l] P. Fisher,
John Tifft,
Willard Blackinton,
Hartford Field,
Abner Polsey,
Leonard Holmes,
Lewis Armstrong,
Milton Freeman,
Nathan H. Bliss,
Henry Carrique,
Martin S. Witherell,
Onesemus Clark,
Milton W. Blackinton,
Horace Foster,
Noah Claflin, Jr.,
Samuel M. Holman,
Allen B. Messenger,
Edwin B. Stanley,
Cyrus W. Blackinton,
Otis T. Stanley,
Stephen D. Read,
James O. Blackinton,
Ellis Fisher,
Lucas Daggett,
Bernard Maxcy,
Nelson Morse,
Aaron White,
George Hatch,
Richard Everett,
Richard Robinson,
Ebenezer H. Draper,
Daniel Daggett, Jr.,
David T. Stanley,
James Whittemore,
Elias S. Grant,
Ephraim Jewett,
Lyman Lane,
Lewis Holmes,
Horace Tifft,
Watson Atherton,
Vernal Stanley,
David E. Holman,
Amos Sweet, Jr.,
Lloyd French,
George W. Horr,
Uriah Bowen,
James Titus,
Otis T. Titus,
Willard Jilson,
Richard Whitaker,
Wm. A. Freeman,
Asa Fuller,
Leprilet Fuller,
George Price,
James B. Moulton,
John Cole,
Hervey M. Richards,
Warren Aldrich,
G. F. Starkey,
Emory Gouward,
George L. Perry,
Harrison Wilmarth,
Shepherd Witherell,
Henry Bruggo,
John Wilmarth,
Wm. A. Stanley,
Andrew Davison, Jr.,
James Warren,
Alvan Bickford,
Elias G. Richards,
Jesse Whiting,
Leonard Tifft,
Virgil Blackinton,
William Everett, Jr.,
Darwin Ellis,
William Ellis,
Orville Tyler,
John Bruce,
Mark W. Baldwin,
George Morse,
Charles Richardson,
William Arnold,
William M. Drake,
Charles Whiting,
Ebenezer Fuller,
Comfort Claflen,
John Bates,
David Whiting,
Stephen Richardson,
David H. Grant,
Ezra S. Brownell,
George P. Foster,
Daniel D. Sweet,
Joel Morse, Jr.,
Lyman W. Daggett,
Horatio N. Babcock,
George Shepardson,
Atherton Wales,
Egbert R. Robinson,
Herman W. Bragg,
Gilford Fuller,
Charles Stanley,
Miller Babcock,
Calvin Claflin,
Jacob S. Capron,
Loring Morse,
Geo. B. Aldrich,
Joseph Hunt,
James Cummings,
Wm. B. Franklin,
James M. Turner,
James H. Horton,
Lorenzo Bullock,
David Buffington,
Cyril Sweet.

Of these men forty-seven enlisted August 3, 1815, and were therefore the original members. The latest enlistment mentioned is that of James H. Horton, in September, 1833. The height of a number of the men was found on the records, the tallest being Horatio N. Draper, who was six feet two inches, and the shortest Daniel F. Ellis, who was five feet five inches high. No special record of the first election of officers was found, but Elihu Daggett, Jr., was first captain and Chester Bugbee the first lieutenant. The first fifer was Seamans Whiting and the first drummer Ellis Fisher, and it was stipulated that he should own a share "equal to five dollars in the bassdrum." The purchase of this same drum seems to have caused some trouble. It was at first suggested that one known to be for sale at sheriff's sale should be bought, but finally one in the

possession of a member of the company, but "belonging to Mr. Cyrus Cleaveland, of Providence," was purchased for $22, "payable in sixty days." Subsequently a bugler and clarionet player were added to the above musicians. The uniform chosen for the company was a green frock, with pantaloons of the same color, or else white, and military caps with black plumes. After much inquiry and discussion a contract was closed "with Messrs. Slocomb & Lamb, of Bromfield, Mass., for rifles at Sixteen Dollars each," quite as low a price as that for which such firearms can now be obtained, even with all the modern improvements, and various facilities for their construction at the command of manufacturers of the present day.

The first recorded meeting was held in "the school-house near Mr. Manning Richards," on May 7, 1816. The meetings were held sometimes at private houses, — frequently at Manning Richards', — sometimes at stores or factories, and often at tavern halls.

On July 1, 1817, the corps met at Manning Richards' house at seven o'clock in the morning, from thence marching to Pawtucket "to await the arrival of ——— Monroe, President of the United States." The secretary did not apparently know the first name of Mr. Monroe, and to be "on the safe side" left a space in his book sufficient for a much longer name than James — a space he doubtless forgot to fill. Upon the President's arrival the troops paraded under his inspection, and then he and his suite proceeded on their journey escorted by a detachment of cavalry. Unfortunately, the corps had not then received their striking new uniforms, but these must have been ready by September following, for the corps was ordered to meet at Samuel Newell's on the 29th of that month, and for the first time "Uniforms" as well as "Arms and Equipments, as the law directs for military duty," were required. We find on the records frequent reference to dinners to be provided for "muster or regimental review days;" purchases of powder, payment of levies or dues, — always very moderate, — and occasionally the entry: "Meeting not attended on account of bad weather."

March 28, 1821, the corps for the first time met to pay respect to a deceased member — Nathaniel Rand, Jr. "At one o'clock adjourned to the late residence of the deceased, whence (after divine service) the Corps marched with arms reversed, before the remains of the deceased, (the Four Sergeants acting as pall-bearers) to the burial ground near the Meeting house in the East Precinct. After depositing the remains with the usual ceremonies, the Corps returned to the house of Col. Bolkcom, where they were dismissed." Two similar accounts were found later.

In 1821 new uniforms, of which a black handkerchief was considered a part, were purchased. Their color was "bottle green," and it became necessary at that time to have the knapsacks repainted. The charge for this work was fifty cents each, and the clerk adds: ("rather more than was expected"). On September 21, 1821, the following letter was written to the company:

To the Gentlemen composing the Washington Independent Rifle Company.

Gentlemen, A number of the Ladies of Attleborough, actuated by a desire to add their feeble endeavors to the general good, and reflecting that nothing can be considered unimportant, that might tend to promote emulation in improvement, and wishing likewise to testify their gratitude and respect to those who are ever ready to protect them in the hour of danger, have united their means to purchase a *Standard*, which they will do themselves the honor to present for your acceptance, at any time and place, you may think proper to appoint.

Written by order of the Ladies.

(Signed) Louisa T. Everett.

The subscription paper containing the names of the ladies who interested themselves in getting this standard, with the amount each one gave, was recently found among some old papers in the possession of one of the Hatch family,[1] and deeming that lady readers at least will be interested to know who they were, the list is transcribed: —

Susan Richards,	Maria Richardson,	Ann Lynch,
Nancy W. Draper,	Eliza Ann Draper,	Betsy Draper,
Sarah Draper,	Betsey L. Richards,	Rebecca Richards,
Betsey Richards,	Margaret Daggett,	M. Richards,

[1] Mrs. Goodhue, granddaughter of Colonel Israel Hatch.

Olive Richards,	Hannah K. Grant,	Joan Jackson,
Azubah Blackinton,	Mariett Stanley,	Mindwell Cushing,
Emma Bowers,	Julia Holmes,	Martha Simpson,
Hannah S. Robinson,	Mary Holmes,	Sophia Richards,
Sarah R. Robinson,	Eliza Holmes,	Lydia Richards,
Leafa Tyler,	Abigail Herring,	Amanda A. Draper,
Sally Tyler,	Maria Ellis,	Bebe Draper,
Ann Robinson,	Abigail M. Ellis,	Laura S. Olney,
Azubah Towne,	Clarissa Barrows,	Rebecca Daggett,
Lucinta Towne,	Maria Barrows,	Fanny Richards,
Rebecca Stanley,	Abigail Newell,	Mary Gillmore,
Nancy Jackson,	Eunice R. Newell,	Sylvia Richards,
Abby Freeman,	Susan M. Draper,	Charlotte Day,
Nancy Simpson,	Hannah Richards,	Betsey Carrick,
Abby W. Draper,	Mandana Everett,	Sarah D. Robinson,
Rebecca Barton,	Clementine E. Foster,	Sally Hatch.
	Fanny Hatch.	

Largest subscription, $1.25; smallest, fifty cents; average, about eighty-four cents; total, $51.35.

The gentlemen responded to the above communication of the ladies on September 29, 1821, as follows: —

Mrs. Louisa T. Everett, Madam.

Permit us to express to you, and your liberal associates, our sincere thanks for the generous offer contained in your communication of the 21. inst. and also to signify our acceptance of the same.

We would most respectfully beg leave to wait on the Ladies, at Col. Hatch's, on Thursday the 11. of Oct. next at 2 o'clock P.M., for the purpose of receiving the proposed token of their Liberality and Patriotism: hoping that we shall never be unmindful of the strong obligation it imposes on us, to use our utmost exertions, to merit a continuance of their approbation.

Per Order,

Wm. Everett. Jr.,
{ Clerk of the
{ Washington Rifle Corps.

In pursuance of arrangements previously made, the company to the number of thirty-eight met at the house of Lieutenant Chester Bugbee on the appointed day. "At two o'clock the corps marched to Col. Hatch's and wheeled into line in front of his house, where the Ladies (subscribers for the Standard) in Uniforms, were paraded in a semicircle." This uniform of the ladies was a white cashmere fichu, with a colored border, and fringed — according to an eyewitness[1] of this interesting scene who is still living.

"Miss Sally Odell attended by two young Ladies appeared with the Standard" — which was a splendid and appropriate one, and inscribed with the motto, "*Protect what your fathers obtained*" — and "took her place upon a platform in the middle of the circle. The Orator of the day, and visiting Officers in Uniform, followed and took post on the right of the Corps. After a salute from the Officers the STANDARD was presented by Miss Sally Odell, with the following Address."

Gentlemen of the Washington Rifle Corps.

We are assembled before you, not to celebrate the Birth-day of a Monarch, or to participate in the gaudy scenes of a regal Coronation; but for the pleasing and laudable purpose of placing in your hands, this symbol of triumph, and emblem of fame. At that eventful crisis, when our Fathers threw off the yoke, and burst the chains of British tyranny; and when the

[1] "Aunt Cynthia" Hatch. (Since deceased.)

Congress of these States, as if directed by unerring Wisdom, pronounced that glorious, solemn, and sublime Declaration of Independence, and proclaimed the unalienable rights of man; then was introduced the "Star spangled Banner," which, like the ever memorable "Star in the east," served, under the wise direction of a Washington, as a sure guide to peace and Independence. The star of victory beamed on the crest of Columbia's sons, and with the blood of a Warren, a Montgomery, and many other distinguished heroes, they sealed the covenant made with Liberty. Peace and national prosperity were the blessings which followed for a series of years.

When again the shrill clarion of war sounded to arms, again Columbia's sons rallied around her standard, and in the field, and on the ocean, Albion's well-appointed veterans were compelled to prostrate the *British Lion*, at the feet of the *American Eagle*.

To you, Gentlemen, we now present this Standard, in behalf of the Ladies of Attleborough, who feel the most anxious solicitude for your welfare and honour, as citizens and soldiers. We feel the strongest assurance, that should the dreadful din of war ever again disturb our beloved country (which may Heaven avert!) you will be found in the Advanced guard of its brave defenders, assisting the rights, and maintaining the honour of this great and powerful Republic.

Finally, Gentlemen, imitate the virtues, and be inspired with the patriotism of the illustrious, the immortal Washington, whose name you bear, and you *can*, you *will*, "protect what your Fathers obtained," and continue to enjoy the rich blessings which we inherit from them.

Ensign Blake accepted the standard for the company, and in their behalf made the following gallant reply to the patriotic address of Miss Odell: —

In receiving this Standard from the Ladies of Attleborough, permit me in behalf of the Washington Rifle Corps, to present you their sincere acknowledgments, for this noble present, which they receive as a testimony of your approbation.

When we are reminded of those days, in which oppression aroused our Fathers to arms; and in which they toiled, and shed their blood, in erecting the Standard of Liberty on the shores of Columbia; we feel a patriotic pride in being entrusted with this symbol of their victory. The name of Washington, who led the American People from tyranny and oppression, to victory and freedom, is alone sufficient, to inspire the breasts of American Soldiers, with the liveliest feelings of patriotism; — But, when that name is heard from the lips of Columbia's Fair, and the Banner of our country is received from their hands, a noble ambition fires our bosoms with a firm determination to maintain and protect, from every attack, the Freedom bequeathed to us by our Fathers; and that this Standard, the evidence of their invaluable Legacy, shall never be wrested from our hands by a Foreign Enemy, or rent by an internal Foe.

The banner, which was in the possession of Captain Price probably for many years and until his death, has a groundwork of green silk. On one side are the arms of Massachusetts as a centrepiece, surrounded by figures of implements of war elaborately embroidered. Above is the inscription "4th Reg. 2nd Brig. 5th. Div." and below "Washington Rifle Corps." On the reverse side Liberty is finely represented in the central foreground leaning upon a shield bearing the motto: "Protect what your fathers obtained." A little back of the right centre is the bust of Washington, on its pedestal the immortal lines: "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his country-men." In the left background an encampment of soldiers is represented, and on a scroll below "Presented by the ladies of Attleborough."

The record continues: "After this ceremony a procession was formed of the Corps, Orator of the day, Selectmen of the town, visiting Officers, and Ladies, and moved to the meeting-house, where an eloquent and patriotic Oration was pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Carrique, and several appropriate anthems sung. The whole then returned to Col. Hatch's house and partook of an excellent supper prepared for the occasion." This description sketches a very attractive scene — the soldiers in their bright uniforms, the ladies in pretty dresses, the moving crowd, the famous old tavern, as it was ere its palmy days were of the past, the old church set in its triangle of vivid green, the little cluster of gravestones near by, the surrounding forests in their varied brilliant dress, with the glorious air of a New England mid-autumn day embracing and beautifying all. But the curtain cannot quite yet be drawn; another act

follows. Our fathers did not forget to give tangible proof of their appreciation of the attentions bestowed upon them on that day. The clerk of the company was instructed to present their thanks to the orator, and they voted "that the sum of five dollars be presented to the Rev. Mr. Carrique, in consideration of his services on the 11th inst. — likewise, the sum of five dollars to Miss Sally Odell as a reward of merit, for the handsome style in which she presented the Standard to this corps, — also, the sum of one dollar to Mr. Cha$ Bicknee [probably Bicknell?] for ringing the bell, assisting in forming the procession, etc. etc. on that occasion."

On July 5, 1830, the Fourth being Sunday, the corps met at Samuel Newell's, where they "partook of a dinner prepared for the occasion by Mr. Newell. The corps then paraded in front of Mr. Newell's, and fired fifteen rounds, at 3 o'clock marched to the meeting house and escorted the Temperance Society, where an address was delivered by Esq. John Daggett, prepared for the occasion, — after service attended to manouvering and firing." By way of contrast to the manner the above-mentioned day was spent, the description found of a day's marching is given. September 24, 1831, there was a meeting at eight o'clock in the morning at Elias G. Richards' store. "The corps took up a line of march, on the way they was invited by M. W. Baldwin to take something to drink at Robinson, Jones & Co's store, and then they marched on their way to Mr. Newell's and Mr. Edward Richards invited the Corps to take something to drink with him, and they *excepted* [the intended meaning is obvious], and when they got to Mr. Newell's Inn the corps had another invitation to take something to drink from Mr. Samuel Newell, Jr. the corps dined to Mr. Newell's after dinner the corps took up a line of march for the *Precinck* on their way they had an invitation from Capt. Samuel Carpenter to take some wine with him and then the corps marched to Mr. Samuel Holman's store." This is the only recorded day on which entertainment of this nature was so frequently offered to the company and the occurrence may, perhaps, have been an unusual one. It is an incident which shows the custom of the times; but another proof that "as our fathers were, so are we," for from time immemorial marching seems to have been productive of such deep-seated thirst as only frequent and copious drafts of liquid, often such as the above, could ever tend to slake, and the day seemed to have been one of interest to him who transcribed its events.

Upon one occasion the parade was "in front of Mr. Holman's," where a target representing a "full sized Indian," had been placed. This had been procured by Captain David Holman, who offered a dollar to the man who should make the best shot. The distance is not named, but all the men present fired at this "Indian" and no doubt with zest and the wish that it was something more real than a "counterfeit presentment." The "best shot" was Mr. Milton Blackinton, who "consequently merited, and received the premium." In 1830 a sham fight occurred in East Attleborough. The training field, according to an eyewitness still living, was "about where Pine St. is now." The company met at Mr. Holman's, where they were entertained, and in the afternoon the battle took place. Twenty of the citizens of the town, dressed in Indian style, joined with the rifle corps against militia and other troops, under command of Colonel Isaac Miller. The records do not state which side was declared victorious.

In "pursuance of regimental orders" the corps met on October 20, 1832, in Norton, where the necessary inspection and exercises were gone through. The record relating to this occasion, and made two days later, was the last one found, and the entry concludes as follows: "The Corps were then joined by Capt. Ide, in Indian costume, bearing a colour with the following motto *Free Trade and Yankee Rights.*" Here the clerk's record ends, though the company continued its existence for some years longer. These soldiers were never called upon to do actual active duty but once. This was during the construction of the Boston and Providence railroad, about 1836-38. A riot occurred among the Irish laborers near Canton, and John Daggett advised sending the company to quell the disturbance. Captain Holman marched with his men to the place in the night and the Irishmen at once yielded. The ringleaders were made prisoners and brought to this town.

March 28, 1840, the State Adjutant-General issued a general order approved by the Governor abolishing the standing militia companies, and May 7, 1841, he issued the order declaring them disbanded. The order was carried into effect here June 1, 1841, on which date this company was disbanded, its officers discharged, and the famous "Washington Volunteer Rifle Corps of Attleborough" ceased to exist.

MASONIC LODGES.

Of all the organizations in existence at the present time of a social or beneficial nature the order of Free and Accepted Masons is the oldest. It goes back through many hundreds of years and to an Oriental country for its origin, so far as that is known. It extends all over the world, and though its expressions and forms of working may be varied in different lands, its principles, which are of a very high order, are always the same. There are in the order thirty-three degrees; what is called the Blue Lodge has three, those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason respectively; then comes the Chapter, with four degrees; then the Council with three; then the Commandery with four; and beyond these various other lodges, such as Perfection of Sorrow, Scottish Rites, etc. The entrance fees and yearly dues of this order here are very reasonable and within the means of men of moderate incomes. The element of secrecy, once considered so dangerous to society at large and the cause of much bitter opposition in various parts of the country, seems now to be considered quite harmless. As at present existing in America, at least, the Masons are primarily a social order, beneficiary work among needy members not being compulsory. Such matters are left entirely at the discretion of individual lodges; and to their credit it may be said these are not found wanting in this respect.

BRISTOL LODGE.

The oldest organization now in existence in this town and the only one which dates from the preceding century is Bristol Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Its charter bears the date of 1797, and was granted to the lodge by the "Grand Lodge of the most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," and its membership originally included residents of the several towns of Attleborough, Mansfield, Norton, Rehoboth, Pawtucket, and Taunton.[1] Some one says: "As often as the eye rests upon this ancient charter, its speech is of patriotism and courage, of civil and religious liberty, of free government," and its lustre is brightened and its value greatly enhanced by the bold signature of Paul Revere, the hero of that famous midnight ride from Boston to Concord as the bearer of the direful tidings of British invasion.

The lodge established itself first at Norton and continued to hold its meetings there until December 11, 1811, at which time it removed to this town. The old parchment has been carefully preserved. Upon one side is the charter proper — the license to form the lodge addressed by the Grand Lodge to all the Fraternity of the State. Then come the names of the charter members as follows: Job Gilbert, George Gilbert, Ira Smith, Joshua Pond, Samuel Morey, Jr., Timothy Brigess, Jr., Saml Day, Seth Smith, Jr., Daniel Gilbert, Benjamin Brillig.

In Testimony Whereof, We the Grand Master and Grand Wardens, by virtue of the Power and Authority to us committed, have hereunto set our Hands and caused the Seal of the Grand Lodge to be affixed, at Boston, this fourteenth Day of June Anno Domini, 1797, And of Masonry 5797.

Paul Revere,
Grand Master.
Samuel Dunn
Deputy Grand Master.

Isaiah Thomas, Sen. Grand Master.
Joseph Laughton, Jun. Grand Master.

In Grand Lodge, Dec. 13, A. L. 5854.

I hereby certify that the above Charter, was by vote of the Grand Lodge this day restored with all its original powers and immunities to the following Brethren, petitioners and former members of the within named Bristol Lodge, to wit: — Willard Robinson, S. O. Draper,

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[1] I am again indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Price who, with great interest and pleasure, gave me free access to the ancient records of Bristol Lodge. I need make no apology for quoting freely from them, because the incidents referred to in this sketch will interest not only the present members of the lodge, but others also in equal measure, since they picture some phases of the social life of the town in the early part of this century, and therefore belong to its history. — EDITOR.

Willard Blackinton, Rufus P. Barrow, Ephraim Dean, Daniel Babcock, Edward Richardson, and Noah Claflin. And they are accordingly authorized to reorganize and resume work as a Lodge.

Chas. W. Moore,
Rec. Grand Sec. Grand Lodge of Mass.

By order of the Grand Lodge,
Daniel Oliver,
Grand Secretary.

In Grand Lodge,
Sept. 14, 1859.

The above charter was by vote of Grand Lodge, this day again restored to the Petitioners named in the endorsement of Dec. 13, 1854. 5854.

Attest
Chas. W. Moore,
Grand Sec.

On the reverse side of the charter are the following permits: —

To all whom it may concern. This certifies that agreeable to a petition presented the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Massachusetts at their annual communication on the eleventh day of Decr A. L. 5811 by a large majority of the officers and members of Bristol Lodge, established by Charter in the town of Norton, in the county of Bristol, it was unanimously voted that permission be granted the —— petitioners to remove that Lodge from Norton to the town of Attleboro' East Parish in said County, there and there only, to hold their future meetings, and that the Grand Recording Secretary be instructed to confirm the same by an endorsement on the Charter of said Lodge. In testimony whereof, and by virtue of the above Vote — I have hereunto affixed my Signature.

John Proctor,
Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge of Mass. March 10th 5830. Voted that Bristol Lodge be permitted to assemble in Attleboro' instead of Attleboro' East Parish.

Copy of Record,
Attest Thomas Power,
Grand Sec.

The first meeting whose regular record is preserved here was held June 7, 1813, the following members being present: Abiathar Richardson, Jr., Jabez Newell, Luther Cobb, Obed Robinson, Jr., George W. Robinson, Joseph Lang, Jebel Ingraham, John E. Robinson, James Warren, Remember Carpenter, Thomas Stanley, Edward Price, Benjamin Hubbard, Amos Sweet, Naman Bishop, Manning Richards, Edward Foster, Thomas Williams, Samuel Carpenter, William Fisher. The early meetings of the lodge were generally held in the afternoon, the hour varying from two to five o'clock. In June, 1814, Chester Bugbee, Elihu Daggett, Sylvanus Tingley, and Luther Cobb were chosen a committee to select the music for the dedication of the hall. September 8, 1814, "Voted to procure Blinds for the windows of the new hall, and to have them ready and hung before Dedication," and two gentlemen were deputed "to procure the same." This hall was Bolkcom's hall, an L which Mr. Bolkcom built on to his tavern for the use of the Masons. The music for the dedication seemed difficult to arrange, for later Remember Carpenter and Edward Richards, Jr., were added to the above committee. Jebez Newell, Henry Sweet, and William Verry were requested to confer "with Bro. Benj. Bolkcom upon a bill of fare, for the supper," and were "a committee to make the necessary arrangements for the day of our dedication. The lodge also "voted that 25cts. be added to the price of Gentlemen's tickets, to be received by Br. Bolkcom in favor of the Lodge to defray the expense of musick Initiation;" the original price of the tickets was not stated. On October 27 it was "voted to Choose a committee of nine to assist in making preparation and accommodation for the Ladies on dedication day." Either the task must have been considered formidable or the preparations been very elaborate since so large a committee was required.

November 3, 1814, the lodge met at nine o'clock for the dedication of the new hall, but as the Grand Lodge did not appear, those special ceremonies were necessarily postponed. However, "the Brethren about 120 in number, formed Procession, followed by a band of musick, marched to the meeting-house where an appropriate discourse was delivered by Bro. John Holroyd. The Procession then returned to the hall again, where they partook of an excellent repast, and after wine, toasting, and singing the Lodge was closed till our next regular communication." December 22, 1814, "Voted to refund Bro. George W. Robinson 10 Dollars, together with the thanks of the Lodge, for his perseverance and strict attention in procuring furniture for the new Lodge."

May 18, 1815, "Voted to celebrate and also dedicate our Hall on the 24th June next.— Chose Bros. Edw'd Richardson, Chester Bugbee, and Elihu Daggett a committee to prepare musick for celebration, — Chose Brs. Wm. Fisher and Judson Blake a committee to procure an orator for Celebration." June 5, 1815, "Chose Jabez Newell, Jabel Ingraham, and Otis Robinson, a committee to see that necessary entertainment and refreshment is prepared for the Celebration and Dedication, at the 24th June next, — Chose Brs. Elihu Daggett, Judson Blake, and Noah Claflin a committee to invite the clergy of this Town to meet with us on the 24th June. Also added Bro. Wm. Verry to s'd committee, and requested him to invite the Rev'd Mr." —— (name illegible, probably Clark, as the Rev. Pitt Clark was at that time pastor of the Congregational (Unitarian) church in Norton, where the lodge first held its meetings.)

June 24, 1815. The Grand Lodge having arrived, its members were escorted to the new hall by the gentlemen deputed to perform that duty, and it was "Dedicated in ample Form," and "a procession was then formed which marched to the meeting-house where a very Excellent and appropriate Discourse was delivered by Rev'd. Br. Barnabas Bates of Bristol." These services concluded, the procession returned to the hall where the appointed committees waited upon the representatives of the Grand Lodge and the orator, to present the sincere thanks of Bristol Lodge for their attendance and services; "which Business being done the Brethren retired from the hall to the Dining Table where a splendid entertainment was provided by Br. Benjn. Bolkcom, and after regaling themselves with food, the Brethren Drank to a number of very sentimental Toasts." There were visitors on this occasion from Eastern Star Lodge, King David, and others, with "many from Providence, Pawtucket and elsewhere." One of the old residents of the East village well remembers this occasion and says: "When supper was over, the room was cleared, and we danced all night," — mentioning his partner, for he is too gallant to have forgotten her even at the end of sixty years. A subscription of twenty dollars was raised and presented to Mr. Bates for his discourse, which was printed. The first mention of attendance at a funeral service as a lodge was on February 2, 1816, when the members assisted at that of "Br. Bishop." During this year Adoniram Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was formed in town. The installation of officers occurred June 24, 1817, and subsequently the chapter was transferred to New Bedford. June 15, 1826, "Bro. A. Richardson" was appointed to keep the aprons and jewels in order and "Bro. Edward Richardson" to purchase a suitable dress for a candidate, "such a suit as his taste and Judgment shall dictate." On January 31, 1828, a committee was chosen to make inquiries regarding the expense of building a new hall, "and see who will assist." August 13, 1829, "Voted to petition the Grand Lodge to amend the Charter of Bristol Lodge by erasing from it the words East Precinct," also "voted that Brother Elihu Daggett, Jr., be a committee to prepare a petition and personally present the same to the Grand Lodge at their next regular meeting agreeable to the foregoing vote." April 8, 1830, a communication was received from the Grand Lodge to the effect that the petition was granted.

In 1830 it was decided to remove the lodge from the East village. The furniture was ordered to be taken to the Farnam House in West Attleborough, and it was subsequently decided to buy that estate if it could be bought for a certain sum; but the matter fell through. About 1830–31 a hall belonging to Richard Everett was used by the lodge. At that time steps were being taken towards the building of an academy in North Attleborough, and on June 24, 1831, the lodge voted to subscribe for twelve shares in this new building provided it could be built for $1,200, and later two more shares were taken. The building was to be called "Attleborough Academy and Masonic Hall." Here the records cease abruptly. The academy was, however, built, and used by the lodge as has been stated in a previous chapter.

Up to this time the lodge had been prosperous, but in 1833 the membership had so largely decreased as to render it necessary to return the charter to the Grand Lodge. This was due to the anti-Mason excitement which commenced in western New York and spread over the whole land, creating such an antagonistic spirit toward the entire order that in many places Masonry was forced apparently to die out, and its adherents dared to remain faithful only in secret. In time this wave of fierce opposition subsided, and in 1854 several of the Masons here petitioned to have their "time honored document" restored to them. This was done, but for some reason little action was taken until 1859, when the charter was again restored, and since that time the order has been continually increasing in membership and gaining in influence. Mr. Ezekiel Bates was at that time the highest Mason in town, and after the return of the charter he initiated those who presented themselves for degrees. Dr. James W. Foster was the first to be received into the lodge and his son John Bates the second.

Bristol Lodge for many years owned a building in North Attleborough and their hall in it was dedicated February 9, 1876. The accommodations for all purposes are ample, the hall is well furnished and the special appointments are handsome. A remarkable fac-simile copy of the old charter hangs over the Worthy Master's chair and an anteroom contains a case filled with ancient and beautifully wrought regalia. It is fitting that the picture of George Washington should meet the eye of both members and visitors as they enter the precincts of the lodge, for as a Mason he is pointed to as a shining example, and as a man and a citizen he was equally worthy close imitation.[1]

The following is a list of the Past Masters of Bristol Lodge from 1813 to the present time: Abiathar Richardson, Jr., William Fisher, Edward Richardson, Moses Richardson, George W. Robinson, D. Babcock, S. G. Bates, Willard Blackinton, George B. Richards, Samuel S. Ginnodo, Charles E. Smith, John B. Maintain, Thomas G. Sandland, Obed C. Turner, Francis S. Fairbanks, Samuel S. Bugbee, Arthur E. Codding, James A. Codding, Theodore B. Hazzard, Walter E. Barden. The officers for 1887 were: W. M., Elton I. Franklin; S. W., Frederic B. Byram; J. W., George E. Hawes; Secretary, Charles F. Guild; Treasurer, Owen B. Bestor; Chaplain, Samuel H. Bugbee; Marshal, Edwin D. Sturtevant; S. D., William O. Clark; J. D., Edward G. Pratt; S. S., Edward A. Phillips; J. S., Frank Cutler; I. S., Daniel H. Ralph; Orator, James A. Codding; Tyler, Thomas R. Jones. The lodge numbers about one hundred and fifteen members. The building has recently been sold, but it continues to occupy its halls as before.

EZEKIEL BATES LODGE.

The original organization of this lodge at East Attleborough occurred January 12, 1870, under the necessary dispensation from the Grand Lodge of the State. This dispensation expired September 6, 1871, and at that time grand officers came here to regularly institute the lodge and install its officers. There were twenty-four charter members. Since its institution this lodge has grown rapidly and almost uninterruptedly, and at present has about one hundred and seven members.

The Past Masters are: Daniel H. Smith, Albert R. Crosby, George F. Bicknell, Edwin L. Crandall, Charles E. Bliss, Herbert N. Mason, Benjamin P. King, William J. Thompson. Officers for 1887: W. M., Edward C. Martin: S. W., J. Lyman Sweet; J. W., Clarence E. Richards; Secretary, Orville P. Richardson, Jr.; Treasurer, Fred. G. Mason; Chaplain, Hiram A. Philbrook; Marshal, William H. Goff; T. D., Eugene H. Richardson; J. D., George H. Herrick; S. S., William H. Sargent; J. S., Wilbur R. Wetherell; I. S., Thomas J. Wainwright; Orator, Albert W. Winsor; Tyler, James Howarth.

KING HIRAM ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

This is a flourishing chapter in East Attleborough. It received its charter March 7, 1876. The officers for the year 1887 were as follows: M. E. H. P., Owen B. Bestor; E. K., Arthur T.

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[1] It is a significant fact that he was admitted to the order before reaching the age of twenty-one. He was the first, and is probably the only person in the country of whom that fact can be stated, as no one is eligible for membership in a Masonic lodge before attaining his majority. In Washington's case it was made possible only by special dispensation from England.

Parker; E. S., William L. Elliot; Chaplain, Benjamin P. King; C. of H., Luke C. Keith; P. S., Alfred R. Crosby; R. A. C., John W. Luther; M. of 3d V., Alvah C. Luther; M. of 2d V., Edward C. Martin; M. of 1st V., Daniel H. Smith; Secretary, D. Edward Wilmarth; Treasurer, Edward H. Frink; Senior, Horatio E. White.

BRISTOL COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR.

This commandery is at North Attleborough. Its officers for 1887 were: E. C., James A. Codding; General, J. Lyman Sweet; Captain General, T. B. Hazzard; S. W., R. B. Carpenter; J. W., Owen B. Bestor; T., S. E. Fisher; R., Arthur T. Parker; St. B., Edwin Whitney; Sw. B., C. W. Fisher; W., Thomas G. Sandland.

AURORA LODGE, I. O. O. F.

Unlike the order of Free and Accepted Masons, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows is of comparatively recent date, which makes its rapid growth and great prosperity the more noteworthy. The first societies known were in London in the early part of the last century and they were styled "Ancient and Honorable Odd Fellows." The first known in this country was in the early part of the present century, in 1819, when a lodge was formed in Baltimore, and was a branch of the English order. It was not till 1826 that American lodges became independent. Since that time the American order has increased remarkably, until at the present time it has branches in almost every State and Territory and in many foreign lands. Its principles are well known to be of the highest morality, and it enjoins special charity work, which is not confined to pecuniary aid alone, among needy members, and large sums are annually expended in the various lodges in caring for the families of deceased members. The order of Odd Fellowship has degrees, or stages, which must be passed in order to gain full membership; such are the initiatory, the pink, the blue, and lastly, the scarlet degree. There are also encampments to which only members of the scarlet degree are eligible, though this membership is not necessary to real Odd Fellowship.

The history of this order in town dates back over thirty years, to January 29, 1846, when Aurora Lodge Number 107 was instituted. The charter members who signed the petition for permission to organize a lodge were Abraham Hayward, Thaddeus Phelps, Alfred Barrows, Joseph D. Pierce, Lemuel Bishop, Benjamin F. Hammar, Samuel D. Foote, and Daniel Evans, the latter being the only survivor.[1] The first meetings were held in the second story of a schoolhouse,[2] which stood near the site of the present Oldtown schoolhouse, the only available place that could be found. The surroundings were lowly, but the spirit of enthusiasm in the members was lofty. The first officers were: N. G., A. Hayward; V. G., T. Phelps; Secretary, D. Evans; Treasurer, A. Tifft. The lodge increased with great rapidity, though the growth proved an unhealthy one. The building in which the members met was much dilapidated, and though its rude decorations may have been in keeping with a small beginning, at the end of a few months ampler and better accommodations became necessary. These were obtained in North Attleborough, and on July 23, 1846, the hall, which was later occupied by the Masons, was dedicated. It was furnished with elegance, and every prospect for the future of the lodge looked flattering in the extreme. Appearances were, however, deceitful, discouragements took the place of bright prospects, and there was a great decrease in interest. May 13, 1851, the lodge moved to a hall on Orne Street where it was hoped by some that the lost prestige would be regained. This was not the case, for deaths and removals followed the change in location, until existence alone became a struggle, and Aurora Lodge was little more than a name.

Under all difficulties and depressions, however, there were some faithful ones who did not despair, and finally, long after many thought the lodge was extinct, it was through their earnest efforts revived. About 1868 a new lease of life seemed to be taken. The growth was at first gradual, but it was sure, and the subsequent prosperity of the lodge has been very great. In 1874 its success was so assured that it was able to contract for a building to cost $20,000. On November 14 of that year the cornerstone was laid by the Right Worthy Grand

[1] Since deceased. [2] This must have been the room previously occupied by the debating societies.

Lodge of Massachusetts, with the ceremonies of the order in ancient form. This building was completed in July, 1875, and dedicated on the tenth of the following November. The upper story is reserved for the use of the lodge, is handsomely furnished, and admirably adapted to the purpose for which it was designed.

The present membership is one hundred and forty. Since its organization the thirty-two gentlemen whose names are here given have served the lodge as Noble Grand; namely: Daniel Evans, T. G. Sandland, D. D. Kent, F. G. Whitney, A. N. Quinby, E. A. Luther, W. J. Follett, E. R. Darling, John Thompson, J. N. Hall, S. A. Gross, F. Doll, S. Totten, H. G. Grant, C. F. Jackson, F. L. Burden, F. G. Pate, E. S. M. Perkins, George W. Fisher, George Dietz, L. V. Witherell, L. C. Tifft, G. W. French, B. Porter, Jr., A. Totten, B. C. Rhodes, H. E. Coombs, G. B. Whiting, D. Thompson, W. D. Wemmell, H. L. Kent, R. G. Temple. The officers for 1887 were P. G., R. G. Temple; N. G., E. J. Bacon; V. G., William McCoombs; Recording Secretary, David Thompson; Treasurer, Horace L. Kent; Representatives, D. Thompson, James Totten, L. C. Tifft; Permanent Secretary, Ambrose Kurtz.

HOWARD ENCAMPMENT.

Until 1846 Aurora Lodge was the only society of Odd Fellows in town, but on August 5 of that year Howard Encampment Number 19 was instituted in the hall occupied by Aurora Lodge. It had a checkered existence for a few years, and finally, in 1850, surrendered its charter. This was restored February 21, 1876, at which time the lodge was reinstituted, and since then it has been steadily increasing, both in numbers and financial strength, until now its condition is in every way prosperous. About eighteen gentlemen have held the highest office in this lodge, that of Chief Patriarch, and many of them are prominent in other orders. The officers who were elected in 1887 are as follows: C. P., Walter E. Cook; H. P., Sullivan Eaton; S. W., A. Rosenberg; Treasurer, A. N. Quinby; R. S., David Thompson; J. W., F. R. DeLisle. The number of members is sixty-six.

ORIENT LODGE.

With the increase in the population of the town there was a corresponding increase in the membership of Aurora Lodge, after its revival, and in due time there was a demand for another lodge of the same order, and Orient Lodge, No. 165, was organized. It was composed at first entirely of members of Aurora Lodge, thirty-four in number. A petition for a charter, signed by the late Gideon M. Horton and twenty-nine other gentlemen, was sent to the Grand Lodge of the State, and the organization of the new lodge soon followed. It was instituted October 2, 1873. Its first place of meeting was in Briggs' Block, in the hall now occupied by the Grand Army. This hall was used for eleven years, but at the end of that time it was thoroughly outgrown, and on August 10, 1884, the lodge removed to larger quarters in Horton's Block. Here it had a convenient and well-furnished hall. It has elaborate and costly paraphernalia, and has attained an excellent position as to numbers and financial condition. Much effective charitable work has been done in looking after sick and needy members, and this care has been extended to the children of those who have died. As in similar organizations, a watch is also kept over the conduct of all members. That the existence of this lodge has been uncommonly prosperous is shown by the fact that at the end of fourteen years it numbered one hundred and sixty-eight members. In May, 1887, it moved into the commodious and elegant quarters prepared for it in Bates Opera House.

The first elective officers were: N. G., Gideon M. Horton; V. G., John Baxter; R. S., Elijah R. Read; Treasurer, Stephen T. Smith; P. S., C. H. Pond. The following named gentlemen have held the office of Noble Grand: G. M. Horton, John Baxter, E. R. Read, George A. Adams, C. C. Wilmarth, W. S. Wilbur, W. H. Goff, N. Hicks, J. J. Horton, D. E. Adams, C. F. Harwood, J. W. Pratt, Joseph Heywood, E. A. Sweeney, A. D. Dean, W. C. Sherman, E. B. Bromiley, H. A. Clark, F. S. Sweet, H. E. Durgin, John Slater, M. L. Chapman, C. W. Blackinton. Officers for 1887: N. G., E. D. Gilmore; V. G., E. D. Guild; R. S., J. S. Richards; T., H. L. Carpenter; Warden, G. A. Taylor; Con., W. E. Newman; Chaplain, John Slater; R. S. N. G., H. E. White; L. S. N. G., E. L. Waterman; R. S. V. G., W. E. Carpenter; L. S. V. G., H. E. Briggs; R. S. S., F. E. Smith; L. S. S., W. Ashley; I. G., L. Carpenter; O. G., E. C. Burtonwood.

CANTON ATTLEBOROUGH, NO. 48, PATRIARCHS MILITANT.

This lodge was instituted in December, 1886. The officers for 1887 were as follows: Captain, Albert Totten; Lieutenant, Edward A. Sweeney; Ensign, Newton J. Sweet; Clerk, Walter P. Marble; Accountant, Nehemiah Hicks.

ESTHER LODGE, DAUGHTERS OF REBEKAH.

There is a degree in the order of Odd Fellowship called Daughters of Rebekah. This was instituted in 1851 for the benefit of the women connected with the families of members of the order. It contains beneficiary or insurance arrangements similar in nature to such in other organizations, but, unlike some, limiting the benefits to members alone. The order of this degree, called Esther Lodge, No. 12, Daughters of Rebekah, has recently been organized in town. It is in excellent condition, well managed, and has promise of a strong, healthy growth. The officers for 1887 were: N. G., Lucie J. Kenney; V. G., Maggie Cumberland; R. S., Emily Loughlin; F. S., Mabel Kent; Treasurer, Lizzie Semple; Warden, Lisa Schmadl; Con., Ida Kent; I. G., Ada Schmadl; O. G., Thomas Southwick; R. S. N. G., Julia Blackinton; L. S. N. G., Eugenie Jordan; R. S. V. G., Annie Barr; L. S. V. G., Amy Thompson.

SUMNER LODGE.

The Knights of Pythias have a flourishing organization at North Attleborough, in Sumner Lodge, No. 62, which was instituted November 5, 1874, in the old hall over T. E. Hancock's store. This place answered the purpose of the lodge but a short time, and it then moved into the old hall of the Odd Fellows on Orne Street, where it remained several years. In 1880 a second removal was made to the present commodious quarters in Barrows Block. The lodge room is one of the most elegant in the State, the value of its furnishings and paraphernalia being estimated at between $12,000 and $15,000. Since the institution of this lodge about one hundred and thirty-five "Knights" have been made, and the present number of members is about eighty. This large decrease in membership is due to the fact that not long since a number of the members who resided in East Attleborough withdrew to form a lodge of this order in that part of the town, and represents no change in the very prosperous condition of the mother lodge. Sumner Lodge has accomplished a large amount of good in a quiet way spending many hundreds of dollars in the care of the sick and dying, and has often performed the last rites of respect at the graves of deceased members.

Following are the officers for 1887: P. C., Elton E. Whiting; C. C., H. G. Weiler; V. C., Aaron Bennett; Prel., F. O. Coombs; K. of R. and S., Thomas McAlpine; M. of T., A. H. Knight; M. at A., Henry T. Jordan; M. of E., D. E. Hawkins; I. G., Benjamin E. Pierce; O. G., E. S. Allen. Representatives to the Grand Lodge and trustees are also chosen annually.

PYTHAGORAS LODGE.

Pythagoras Lodge, No. 70, Knights of Pythias, was instituted May 26, 1885, with forty-nine charter members. Its membership is composed chiefly of young and enthusiastic business men, who have labored with generous ardor to build up their lodge. Since its beginning this organization has been marked by a steady growth, and its influence, emanating from the conduct and bearing of its members, has been commendable, commanding the respect and good wishes of the community.

The place of meeting is "Castle Hall," Bates' Block. Officers for 1887 were as follows: P. C., J. L. Wells; C. C., E. O. Richardson; V. C., George H. Snell; Prel., George A. Adams; K. of R. and S., Frank P. Keeler; M. of E., L. M. Leach; M. at A., S. M. Holman, Jr.; Trustee for eighteen months, J. Perry Carpenter. There are several other offices which are filled by appointment.

WASHINGTON LODGE, KNIGHTS OF HONOR.

There are several associations in town, organized within a few years, which are especially beneficial in their nature. The original and continued cost of membership is very reasonable, and they afford their members an excellent life insurance, with a yearly rate of increase. Of these associations Washington Lodge, No. 1840, was organized under authority from the Grand

Lodge of this State. Its charter membership was nineteen, since increased to thirty-two, the present number. The lodge is in a prosperous condition, and there are constant applications for membership. The following are the officers elected for 1887: Dictator, J. Norman Hall; Vice-Dictator, Henry C. Cowell; Assistant Dictator, George F. Cheever; Treasurer, F. G. Pate; Representative, W. H. Kling; Financial Representative, L. V. Witherell; Chaplain, La Burton Warren; Guide, L. H. Pherzon; Inside Sentinel, L. H. Pherzon; Outside Sentinel, C. Dobra.

ATTLEBOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL ARCANUM.

This council, No. 366, was organized August 8, 1879, with nineteen charter members, and it was instituted by officers of the Grand Council of Massachusetts. The laws of this association afford to full-rate members an insurance of $3,000, and to half-rate members one of $1,500. Since its organization this lodge has lost six full members: Edwin J. Horton, Eliot Hunt, Charles E. Hayward, Job Savery, Benjamin J. Angell, and Gideon M. Horton, and has paid out on account of these deaths the sum of $18,000. It has sixty members, and is in a thriving condition. The following were officers for 1887: Regent, Charles C. Wilmarth; Vice-Regent, A. Vinton Cobb; Past Regent, William Nerney; Secretary, Charles O. Sweet; Treasurer, Lucius Z. Carpenter; Chaplain, Benjamin P. King; Orator, David E. Makepeace; Collector, Charles A. Wetherell; Guide, Frederick M. Ellis; Warden, Eugene M. Skinner; Sentry, J. Shepard Richards.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH COUNCIL ROYAL ARCANUM.

This council was instituted March 15, 1887, by Grand Secretary H. S. Worrall. Its place of meeting is Pythian Hall, and there are thirty members. At the time of the institution the following officers were installed: Past Regent, J. A. Codding; Regent, W. H. Adair; Vice-Regent, O. W. Clifford; Orator, G. W. Lyman; Chaplain, C. A. Reed; Secretary, Frank H. Cutler; Treasurer, G. W. Waterman; Collector, H. H. Hill; Guide, George E. Cummings; Warden, N. E. Moore; Sentry, C. H. Peck; Trustees, E. R. Price, E. S. Cargill, B. S. Freeman.

MAGNOLIA COUNCIL, NO. 121, AMERICAN LEGION OF HONOR.

The charter for this council was given to thirty persons, and it was instituted at East Attleborough, May 24, 1880. Its present number of members is sixty-six. Officers for 1887: Commander, Charles M. Rhodes; Vice-Commander, Mrs. Elizabeth Stewart; Past Commander, F. D. Hall; Secretary, R. Zequeira; Treasurer, Mrs. Emily Cooper; Collector, John L. Tobitt; Chaplain, Mrs. Isaac Pettis; Orator, John Cooper; Guide, Eben Hirons; Warden, G. P. Williams; Sentry, Isaac Pettis.

MASSASOIT COUNCIL, NO. 270, AMERICAN LEGION OF HONOR.

This council was instituted at North Attleborough, July 30, 1880. Its charter members numbered nineteen, and its present membership is thirty-three. It meets in Pythian Hall on Washington Street. This organization insures its members for sums varying from $500 to $5,000. The officers for 1887 were: Past Commander, E. R. Richardson; Commander, Herbert K. Sturdy; Vice-Commander, Hamilton A. Kendall; Secretary, Jesse D. Bates; Treasurer, Charles T. Guild; Orator, Horace M. Scribner; Collector, Paul Schmidt; Chaplain, Benjamin W. Goode; Guide, Ira V. Dunbar; Warden, Samuel Hamlin; Sentry, W. P. Whittemore; Medical Examiner, Dr. F. L. Burden.

DIONYS LODGE, NO. 317.

This is an association of a similar nature to the above, and belongs to a German order. Its members are German citizens entirely, and in its meetings no language but the German is used. The order in this country started in 1849, and now extends all over the States and into some of the Territories, and since its commencement has paid to beneficiaries more than $800,000. The principle of the order is "Charity," the motto, "Friendship, Love, and Humanity," which is almost exactly like that of Odd Fellowship — "Friendship, Love, and Truth." Dionys Lodge was instituted July 29, 1873, at North Attleborough, and has a present membership of fifty-six. It pays to sick members $5 per week, and in case of death the sum of $500 to

the family of the deceased. Following are the officers for 1887: O. B., John Betz; U. B., Ernst Henbach; Secretary, Amand Witzke; Treasurer, Charles W. Hempel; Prchf., Henry Stetter; Representative to Grand Lodge, Otto Driesner.

PENNINGTON LODGE, NO. 44, ANCIENT ORDER OF UNITED WORKMEN.

The order bearing this title is an organization "for the mutual benefit of its members and their families," and is composed of subordinate and grand lodges and one supreme lodge. It is, though its name implies differently, a modern organization, dating its origin from Meadville, Penn., on October 27, 1868. It has had a wonderful growth, and is represented all over the land. This order has various degrees, with appropriate initiatory ceremonies, and like all the others mentioned is secret in its character and beneficial in its workings, not only financially, but morally. By the yearly payment of a very small sum, $2,000 is secured to the family of each member — or to any person designated by him — who dies in full and honorable standing, and during the first fifteen years of its existence the order paid out in this way over $7,500,000 "without one dollar of loss or defalcation."

PENNINGTON LODGE, NO. 44, was instituted June 19, 1882, with twenty-two charter members, and it now has ninety-five. Its first officers were: Past Master Workman, G. M. Horton; Master Workman, N. J. Smith; Foreman, J. W. Luther; Overseer, John Slater; Recorder, F. L. Le Baron; Financier, J. L. Lamb; Receiver, J. L. Sweet; Guide, S. R. Briggs; Inside Watchman, C. W. Sherman; Outside Watchman, C. R. Bates; Medical Examiner, J. W. Battershall; Trustees, G. M. Horton, George F. Holmes, J. W. Battershall. The officers for 1887 were: Past Master Workman, Emmons D. Guild; Master Workman, George A. Taylor; Foreman, Herbert H. Clark; Overseer, George O. Wilmarth; Regent, Thomas D. Gardner; Financier, H. E. Durgin; Recorder, L. Z. Carpenter; Guide, George H. Smith; Inside Watchman, Charles Keeler; Outside Watchman, Louis B. Kingman; Medical Examiner, J. W. Battershall; Trustees, G. T. Holmes, J. W. Battershall, L. Z. Carpenter.

MOUNT HOPE LODGE, NO. 67.

This lodge of the same order was organized at North Attleborough, August 30, 1886. The original number of members was twenty-seven, and there was no increase until April, 1887, when two new members were admitted. The following were the officers for 1887: Past Master Workman, T. G. Sandland; Master Workman, H. P. Richards; Foreman, George W. Cheever; Overseer, H. W. Sherman; Regent, J. H. Peckham; Financier, Alpin Chisholm; Recorder, J. A. Codding; Inside Watchman, E. F. Whiting; Outside Watchman, O. H. Atwood; Trustees, F. I. Barden, N. B. Follett, S. E. Fisher.

ATTLEBOROUGH YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The preliminary meeting having in view the formation of this association was held in the Methodist Church, October 10, 1867; the second in the Second Congregational Church on October 22, when a constitution was adopted and the following officers elected; namely, President, N. C. Luther; Vice-President, J. O. Tiffany; Secretary and Treasurer, C. G. Hill; Standing Committee, C. E. Bliss, C. L. Fuller, C. E. Carpenter, and Freeman Robbins. Among the charter members were Rev. F. N. Peloubet and Rev. A. Anderson, then pastors of the Second Congregational and Methodist churches respectively.

In May, 1868, the association voted to hire Dean's Building, opposite the old postoffice, for a reading-room and meeting-place, and the first meeting held in these, their own quarters, was on the thirtieth of June following. They remained in this building (which meanwhile changed hands and became the property of W. H. Hardin) until the spring of 1886, when the increased interest manifested in the work, and especially in the Sabbath afternoon meetings, made it necessary to obtain ampler accommodations, and rooms were secured in Pierce's Block, on Park Street. Religious meetings have been held here on Sunday and Thursday evenings, with an attendance on Sunday varying from sixty to a hundred young men, and occasional religious work is also done in outlying districts of the town. A thoroughly good work has been in progress under the auspices of this organization during the twenty years of its existence — often in the face of great discouragements, when many of the members have lost interest. There

have always been, however, "the faithful few," whose courage has never failed, and whose zeal has always been practically manifested. The work, though varying in amount from year to year, has never been entirely interrupted, and much tangible good has been accomplished. There is now a growing appreciation on the part of the general community of the benefits resulting from the labors of this association, and appeals for assistance in carrying out its purposes have met with very liberal responses. There are at present eighty active and twenty-eight associate members. Increased efforts and more extended work are contemplated, and the association looks forward to a building of its own, as soon as practicable.[1]

The following gentlemen have served as presidents: Nathan C. Luther, three terms; Charles E. Bliss, one term; Hartford S. Babcock, one term; Alvin F. Wood, one term; Edwin J. Horton, eight terms; Homer M. Daggett, two terms; Samuel W. Gould, four terms. Following are the various secretaries in their order: Calvin G. Hill, Edwin J. Horton, Job B. Savery, George E. Luther, William H. Gould, Benjamin P. King, Albert H. Tucker. Officers for 1887 were: President, A. Vinton Cobb; Secretary, G. M. Chace.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The rise of this large and powerful organization throughout the land must be attributed to the temperance raids by the women of Ohio in 1874. Fanatics these were called — the leaders in every reformation are; unwomanly — perhaps so in many instances; overstepping the bounds of their proper sphere in life — that may be to some extent true; interfering in what was none of their business — no; too many of them through husbands, brothers, and sons were suffering from the evils of the dreadful curse they longed and sought to remove. They certainly placed themselves in a position to induce the severe criticism which was liberally bestowed, and their methods may have been unwise, but the end has justified the means. From that little band of crazy enthusiasts, as they were termed, has sprung up a great order of women banded together by the strongest tie — a common love and a common sorrow — to fight the universal ill, which is acknowledged to be a terrible scourge. The members of this order are of every rank in life, from the wife and daughter of the laborer to ladies of the highest cultivation and rank; so indeed were the crusaders, many of them being ladies of refinement and of high social position. The members of the unions are doing their varied forms of woman's work in a womanly way, but none the less in a determined and businesslike manner, and many forward steps have been taken and much good has been already accomplished. There are town, county, and State leagues, each one independent in its own special work, but mutually dependent in that common to all, and above and uniting all there is a grand or national league. These are all thoroughly organized, their business affairs properly managed and well conducted. To the fundamental work — which is still supreme — are added various forms of charitable work, as location or circumstance may dictate, and especially the remedy for ills which are engendered by other vices than that of intemperance is sought for. Earnest and conscientious efforts have been and still are being put forth in every direction possible, and each year brings encouragements not only in increase of numbers and formation of new unions, but in other visible good results to the labors.

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[1] This building has been erected. During the latter part of 1888 some preparatory work was begun: the cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1889, and the building dedicated in the autumn of the same year. Land was purchased of Dr. J. R. Bronson, on County Street, near its intersection with Park Street. The building is about 34 by 58 feet in size, and two stories high above the basement. The latter includes the gymnasium, bathroom, etc.; the first story, reading-room, parlor, boys' room, and office; and the second story, two class or lecture rooms. The cost of building and land was about $10,000. Toward this sum the largest contributor was Mr. J. M. Fisher; the two next largest, Mr. S. W. Gould and Mr. M. E. Rowe, while Mr. J. L. Sweet made a very generous promise to be fulfilled when a certain amount of the entire sum should be raised. It is fitting to mention the names of Edwin J. Horton, Samuel W. Gould, and A. Vinton Cobb as very earnest practical workers in the cause of this association. Previous to the erection of the new building a Ladies' Auxiliary was formed, which, as its name indicates, aids the work of the association in various ways. The organization here has been very efficient.

ATTLEBOROUGH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

Through the efforts of Rev. (Mrs.) Ellen C. Gustin, then vice-president of the Massachusetts Temperance Union, a convention for Bristol County was held in the Second Congregational Church, this town, on April 20, 1876. This meeting was addressed by various persons engaged in the cause, and considerable interest was apparently awakened. By a rising vote it was decided to form a union in the East village. A nominating committee was appointed by Mrs. Gustin, and those ladies whose names were presented to the meeting by this committee were unanimously elected to the various offices. These were: Mrs. C. E. Luther, president; Mrs. N. M. Daggett, vice-president; Mrs. L. B. Sweet, secretary; Miss C. C. Thacher, treasurer. An executive committee numbering twelve was also chosen, but by a subsequent vote was reduced to seven in number.

The first business meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Samuel Holman, on the twenty-fourth of the same month, April, 1876, and a constitution was then adopted. At the same time it was announced that the Young Men's Christian Association had offered the use of its reading-room to the Union. This courtesy was gratefully accepted and acknowledged. It was freely extended for a period of nearly ten years, for it was not until December 2, 1885, that the union moved into its own pleasant hall in Horton's Block. This kindness on the part of a society not overbountifully supplied with funds was always properly appreciated, and it was with much pleasure that the ladies at one special time found opportunity to give tangible proof of their thankfulness, in assisting to raise funds for the young men's association, which some of them did to a considerable amount.

The yearly dues in this organization are only fifty cents. Large sums are not required for carrying on its particular lines of work, though more or less is done in the way of charity, which requires money. When funds are needed entertainments are given, and many conducted by the ladies of this union have been both pleasant and profitable. To the small membership at the start there have been large accessions, and the union has now one hundred and one active members and eleven honorary members.

The officers for 1887 were: President, Mrs. C. E. Luther; Vice-Presidents (two from each church), Mrs. L. B. Sweet, Mrs. Charles Blackinton, Mrs. Lowell Brown, Mrs. J. Jordan, Mrs. L. J. Lamb, Mrs. Edwin Claflin, and Rev. Mrs. Gustin; Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. E. Richards; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Helen A. Wexel; Treasurer, Mrs. Harford Capron; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs. Abijah Wales.

There is a large and flourishing Band of Hope carried on by the members of this union.

ATTLEBOROUGH YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

This union for young ladies was organized October 19, 1885, by Miss E. S. Tobey, president of the Massachusetts State Union. The first officers were: Mrs. E. A. Cummings, president; Miss Annie Wheaton, and Mrs. Clara Mason, vice-presidents; Miss A. L. Jones, secretary; Miss I. L. Bacon, treasurer. This union is independent of the other, but unites with it in hiring a hall. Its methods for raising money are the same, and this is applied for charitable work as is necessary. Every year something is done for the Flower Mission in town. There are about fifty active members, and twenty-four honorary members. Following are the officers for 1887: President, Miss Florence Fisher; Vice-Presidents, Miss Annie Wheaton and Mrs. Clara Mason; Recording Secretary, Miss B. H. Webber; Corresponding Secretary, Miss E. E. Gavitt; Treasurer, Miss Alice D. Graham. [No longer in existence.]

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

On the morning of May 3, 1876, just two weeks subsequent to the meeting held in the East village, a meeting was held in the Free Evangelical Church at North Attleborough, under the auspices of the State Union, having in view the formation of a union there. At this meeting, Mrs. Richards, of Charlestown, Mrs. Ward, of Salem, and Miss Oliver, of Boston, were the speakers. A second meeting was held in the afternoon of the same day, which was opened with prayer by Mrs. Gustin, who also made remarks. An original poem by Mrs. Sweet and an essay by Mrs. Holman were read. It was at that time decided to organize a union, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Canfield; Vice-President, Mrs. E. French;

Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. H. Rice; and an executive board numbering six ladies. The first elected president served but three months, and since that time the following named ladies have occupied that office: Mrs. Copeland served nearly three years; Mrs. Thompson, one year; Mrs. Kendall, one year; Mrs. Copeland, again, for one year; Mrs. Wood, one year; Mrs. Draper, four years, and still continues.

This union has devoted itself chiefly to the distribution of temperance literature, and the suppression of that of an impure character, to Sunday-school, juvenile, and evangelistic work, to press and legal work, to town and county fairs, narcotics and tobacco, and to temperance instruction for the children of the public schools. A considerable and encouraging work has been accomplished, and the union is prospering, with a membership of one hundred and thirteen.

The officers in 1887 were: President, Mrs. Lafayette Draper; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Eugene Fisher; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Copeland; Treasurer, Mrs. A. G. Hatch; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. J. G. Barden, Mrs. J. B. Hatch, Mrs. A. M. Sperry, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Pliny Thomas; these with the other officers forming the executive board.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

This union was organized October 15, 1886. It has at present sixty-three active members and twenty-three honorary members. Its work has been especially in the Flower Mission, temperance literature, and amongst railroad employees, and it has been carried on with much zeal and enthusiasm.

Great efforts have been made in this part of the town to secure signers to the temperance pledge, and the Reform Club has also claimed the attention of the union. The children in the Sunday-schools were pledged, and in 1880 a society named the Children's Gospel Temperance Society was organized by Mrs. Kendall and Mrs. Copeland, and out of that has grown the present children's society. In 1883 the name was changed to the Band of Hope, and in 1885 to the present one of Loyal Legion. Since this society was first formed four hundred and fifty names have been enrolled upon its books, and it is now in a very prosperous condition. In the various ladies' temperance unions the aim is as far as possible to first set the children right, and through them — by their influence in great measure — to reach and benefit parents and elders, and in these as in general charities this has proved to be an efficient way to accomplish the desired ends.

KELLOGG DIVISION, NO. 115, SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

This society was instituted February 7, 1885, and has its hall for meetings in Horton's Block The officers for 1887 were: W. P., Charles D. Knight; W. A., Harry Carlyle; R. S., William Miller; A. R. S., Frank Stearns; F. S., Hattie Mallery; T., Charles Streeter; Chaplain, Samuel Hodson; Con., Bertha Pease; A. C., Annie Dow; I. S., Miss Kingman; O. S., Clark Newell.

CARLISLE LODGE, NO. 200, INDEPENDENT ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS.

This lodge was instituted September 22, 1886, and also meets in Horton's Block. Its officers for the year 1887 were: W. C. T., Sheldon Williams; W. S., Sanford L. Wood; W. F. S., E. C. Newell; W. Treasurer, Alfred Mowry.

HOPE LODGE,[1] NO. 116, SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

This lodge meets at Central Church, Attleborough Falls, and was instituted March 22, 1885. Following are the officers for 1887: W. P., William H. Robinson; W. A. R. S., Valentine Denzer; A. R. S., Charles Carpenter; F. S., C. N. Richardson; T., H. D. Dean; Chaplain, Maggie Denzer; C., Cora Miller; A. S., Mrs. Jesse Andrews; P. W. P., G. O. Jenness; I. S., Samuel Miller; O. S., E. C. Stanley.

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[1] Or Ray of Hope Division, Sons of Temperance.

OLIVE BRANCH DIVISION, NO. 117, SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

This lodge meets in Gould's Block on Washington Street, North Attleborough. Its officers in 1887 were as follows: W. P., Harry A. Holt; P. W. P., Henry S. Shea; W. A., Miss Dora P. Nightingale; F. S., Charles E. Metcalf; Treasurer, Burgess Howland.

For some years there was a lodge of the Temple of Honor in town, but it has recently been disbanded.[1]

POKANOKET TRIBE, NO. 38, ORDER OF RED MEN.

This lodge was instituted in East Attleborough, March 15, 1887, and the following officers were installed by Grand Sachem W. J. Dinsmore of the Grand Council of Massachusetts, seventy-five "palefaces" having been previously made into "red men": Past Sachem, George Randall; Sachem, Edward A. Sweeney; Senior Sagamore, George H. Smith; Junior Sagamore, Alfred H. Chatterton; Prophet, George Randall; Keeper of Records, Edgar L. Blackinton; Assistant Keeper of Records, Louis H. Cooper; Keeper of Wampum, Benjamin A. Sibley; First Sannap, Arthur F. Lincoln; Second Sannap, O. W. Hawkins; Warriors, G. H. Uhlig, H. N. Alger, L. B. Kingman, J. B. Shaw; Braves, C. E. Richards, B. F. Blackinton, A. R. Bishop, A. A. McRae; Keeper of Wigwam, J. T. Inman; Keeper of Forest, J. B. Hodge.

ATTLEBOROUGH BOARD OF HEALTH.

At the annual town meeting held March 19, 1883, a Board of Health was for the first time established. The members then elected were: Elisha G. May, George N. Crandall, Joseph G. Barden, George Mackie, M.D., James R. Foster, M.D. This entire board was reëlected for three years consecutively. At the last annual meeting of the town Everett S. Horton was elected a member in place of Mr. Crandall. Dr. Mackie has held the position — by election — of chairman of the board since it came into existence, and Dr. Foster that of secretary in the same way.

The duties of such an organization are too well understood to need explanation. The board here has made yearly detailed reports of its work, and these have been printed in the annual town reports, thus bringing information regarding its labors before the inhabitants. While in a town like this there may not be such serious need of this work as in our large and overcrowded cities, still even now the need is decidedly appreciable, and its good results apparent. With an increase of population and a more general introduction of so-called city *improvements* there will be a corresponding increase in the necessity for an efficient health department, and its real value will doubtless be more properly estimated. The town is wise in looking forward to the probable future, and in "taking time by the forelock" in this matter.

During the first year of the existence of the board only five notices to put premises into proper condition had been necessary, and in one instance only was a second notice required, suggestions to property owners having almost always proved sufficient. During the year 1882 or 1883 not a single death occurred in the town from scarlet fever, measles, or smallpox; only one from whooping-cough and diphtheria, and only eight from typhoid fever. During the year 1886 the board state that not a single legal notice with regard to the condition of premises had been served — an excellent showing. Of the hundred and sixty-eight deaths reported for that year, nine only were from contagious diseases, four being from diphtheria, three from scarlatina, and two from typhoid fever. Consumption had caused the greatest number of deaths, but on the whole the town was in a healthy condition and had been remarkably free from serious epidemics.

The members of the board for 1887 were: Dr. James R. Foster, Dr. George Mackie, Everett S. Horton, Thomas P. McDonough, and Daniel H. Robinson.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH BOARD OF TRADE.

This board was organized December 27, 1880. Its membership increased from fifty, the original number, until there were upwards of sixty members, among them many of the men

[1] Some if not all of these last-mentioned temperance organizations appear either to have disbanded or to have been merged into other orders, for none of these names seem to be extant at the present time, 1893.

of wealth and business influence in that village, the Falls, and Plainville. The meeting place was a room in Barrows' Block. The officers elected for 1887 were as follows: President, Edward R. Price; Vice-Presidents, Henry F. Barrows, Samuel E. Fisher, and Edward E. Barrows; Secretary, F. B. Byram; Treasurer, Henry F. Barrows, Jr. Although its condition was flourishing it was decided to abolish this organization, chiefly because there are so many others to maintain, and that was accordingly done in February, 1887.

ATTLEBOROUGH BOARD OF TRADE.

In November, 1881, this board was organized with about twenty-five members. The present number is twenty-nine. The first president was Joseph M. Bates. The second president, and the one holding that office in 1887, was Daniel Smith; the vice-president, James H. Sturdy; and the secretary and treasurer, Orville Richardson, Jr. The board has a room in Horton's Block. [This organization has passed out of existence.]

COMPANY C. ASSOCIATION.

The real beginning of this association was a torchlight company which was formed in the East village during the Garfield and Arthur campaign in the autumn of 1880, and it gave itself the name of Company C. In the next presidential campaign, that of Blaine and Logan, "many of the old boys, with some new ones, formed a company, and adopted the old name." On election night, November 4, 1884, they secured Room No. 19 in Horton Block and made arrangements for receiving election returns there. During that evening it was decided to form a permanent organization, and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. On November 11 this committee presented its report, which was accepted by the adoption of the constitution and by-laws prepared, and the name of Company C. Association was formally assumed. The following officers were elected at that time: President, E. S. Norton; First Vice-President, George A. Adams; Second Vice-President, E. W. Rhodes; Secretary, Fred. L. Morse; Treasurer, John McDonald; Executive Committee, C. H. Chappell, W. H. Blaney, W. L. King, E. S. Horton, and B. J. Angell; Auditing Committee, Fred. L. LeBaron, George A. Adams, and E. W. Rhodes. The number of members at the organization was forty-two.

The object of the association is set forth in the preamble to the constitution: "The object of the Association shall be the maintenance and promulgation of the principles of the Republican party, literary entertainment and social enjoyment."

The officers for 1887-88 were: President, E. S. Horton; First Vice-President, W. B. Allen; Second Vice-President, W. L. King; Secretary, C. J. McClatchey; Assistant Secretary, J. A. Thayer; Treasurer, W. J. Newman; Executive Committee, George Randall, A. T. Wales, W. L. King, W. B. Allen, and F. L. LeBaron; Auditing Committee, C. E. Richards, J. A. Thayer, and F. L. LeBaron. At this time the membership was eighty-seven. [The Association remained in the room first occupied until November, 1888, when it removed to Room No. 11 on the same floor of Horton Block. On July 2, 1888, it removed to the suite of rooms now occupied on the third floor of the same building. This consists of reception, reading, and billiard room, parlor and anteroom. "The number on its rolls at present — Feb. 1894 — is 242. The success of the Asso' is chiefly due to the personal interest taken by its members, the low cost which it has been, $3.00 per year for dues since its organization, and its exceptionally fine list of periodicals, costing about a hundred dollars a year for subscriptions. Much of the success of the Asso' is due Ex Pres't E. S. Horton, whose zeal in behalf of the organization has been unflagging since its inception, and who still retains a lively interest in it. He was its Pres't from its organization until Nov. 3rd 1893, when he declined to serve longer. He had several times before tried to retire, but the members would not hear to it." His successor is George A. Adams, Esq.]

BANKS.

The town has two national and one savings bank, and all are in a satisfactorily successful condition.

The ATTLEBOROUGH BANK was started in 1836, and chartered by the State. Following is the act: —

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ATTLEBOROUGH BANK.

Jacob Bolkcom, Johnathan Bliss, and Richard Robinson their associates and successors, are hereby created a corporation, by the name of the President, Directors and Company of the

Attleboro Bank to be established in Attleborough, and shall so continue until the first day of October in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty One. And shall be entitled to all the privileges and powers and subject to all the duties, liabilities, and requirements contained in the Thirty Sixth chapter of the Revised Statutes passed the fourth day of November in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty five.

Capital Stock shall consist of One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

The first board of directors, elected in 1836, were: N. W. Sanford, Jonⁿ Bliss, Jacob Bolkcom, Samuel Carpenter, Willard Blackington, Capron Peck, Herbert M. Draper, William Otis, Richard Robinson, Samuel B. Schenck, Laban M. Wheaton.[1]

In 1858 the bank was removed from East to North Attleborough by Act of Legislature. The argument urged in favor of its removal was that the latter village represented a much larger amount of capital than the former, and was therefore entitled to the bank, its requirements in that direction being greater than those of the east part of the town. In 1865 the organization was changed to a national bank with a capital of $100,000. The charter received at that time ran for twenty years. At its expiration in 1885 there was a reorganization and it became the NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH NATIONAL BANK, and its capital was increased to $150,000. President in 1887, Henry F. Barrows; Cashier, Edward R. Price.

Following is a list of the presidents from the beginning: N. W. Sanford, elected May 9, 1836; Samuel Carpenter, October 2, 1837; L. M. Wheaton, October 4, 1852; E. Ira Richards, February 11, 1856; Daniel Evans, January 27, 1875; Henry F. Barrows, 1885. This bank has a building.

By Act of Legislature, the ATTLEBOROUGH SAVINGS BANK was incorporated February 2, 1860. The petitioners for the charter of this organization were E. I. Richards, J. D. Richards, H. M. Richards, and George Morse. About a year after this petition was ratified, the corporators organized and twenty-five gentlemen were elected by the petitioners as members of the organization. They chose Ezekiel Bates president and W. H. Robinson vice-president. These corporate members became depositors for small sums ranging from five to twelve dollars, simply to create a basis upon which to commence operations, and "during the first 15 months of the bank's existence, nearly 25 names appeared upon its books as regular depositors." The advantage of having in town a place of security for both the savings and the surplus soon came to be generally recognized, and since the first year of the existence of this bank there has been a rapid increase both in the number of depositors and the amount of deposits. The members of the corporation are men of good judgment and business sagacity, and under their prudent, "careful management, this savings-bank has often been pronounced one of the soundest in the State." The number of depositors is 2,300 and the present amount of deposits in round numbers $800,000. In 1887 the officers were: President, Abiel Codding; Vice-President, George A. Dean; Secretary and Treasurer, Edward R. Price. Conducts its business in National Bank Building.

The FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ATTLEBOROUGH was chartered in 1875 with a capital of $100,000. Mr. Willard Blackinton, who had been one among the originators of the old Attleborough Bank, was one of the gentlemen most actively interested in obtaining the charter for this new bank. He was elected its first president, and two years after its establishment he died suddenly at the bank in Sturdy's Building while engaged in the performance of one of the duties of his office — presiding at a meeting of the board of directors. Mr. J. M. Bates was hosen his successor and has retained the office ever since. During the past year, 1886, this bank has lost four of its directors by death; namely, Charles E. Hayward and Gideon M. Horton, of East Attleborough, Frank S. Draper, of North Attleborough, and George C. Elliott, of Norton. Officers for 1887: President, J. M. Bates; Cashier, Homer M. Daggett; Directors, J. M. Bates, J. H. Sturdy, S. W. Carpenter, B. S. Freeman, W. M. Fisher, G. A. Dean, C. L. Watson, J. J. Horton, J. L. Sweet.

ATTLEBOROUGH SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION.

This association was organized about 1854 as the ATTLEBOROUGH LOAN FUND ASSOCIATION and continued under that name about fourteen years. In 1869 it was reorganized as the

[1] Of Norton. Names are spelled as found on the records.

ATTLEBOROUGH LOAN AND FUND ASSOCIATION, continuing about seven years, and on January 1, 1876, it was reorganized for the second time under the present name.

Shares are issued as desired at two dollars per month and put at interest. Upon the same principle as that of savings banks, the accumulations are added to the principal and drawn at the option of the shareholders. January 31, 1887, the loans on real estate and stock shares amounted to over $174,000 — this is a sum continually on the increase — and the entire assets of the association were $190,679.86. There were then twelve series of shares, numbering in all twelve hundred and eighteen, with a cash value of $2,442.98. The rate per cent. earned during 1887 was five and three-fourths. The amount of the guarantee fund was $3,946.40.

The first president of the association was Lorenzo Makepeace, who held the office about a year; following him was Willard Blackinton, who continued about the same length of time; then Joseph W. Capron was elected and he still continues in the office, having retained it for fully thirty-two years, through all the changes and under all the titles. In the twelfth annual report of the present-named association the following list of officers is given: President, Joseph W. Capron; Vice-President, James H. Sturdy; Secretary and Treasurer, John T. Bates; Directors, J. M. Bates, S. N. Carpenter, A. B. Carpenter, E. S. Horton, G. F. Bicknell, William H. Smith, M. B. Short, George A. Dean, F. I. Babcock; Trustees, J. M. Bates, A. B. Carpenter; Loan Committee, J. M. Bates, S. N. Carpenter, Mace B. Short; Financial Committee, S. N. Carpenter, F. I. Babcock, Mace B. Short.

ATTLEBOROUGH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

This was first known as THE FARMERS AND MECHANICS ASSOCIATION. During the winter of 1868–69 a course of agricultural lectures was given in the vestry of the Baptist Church by Dodge Howard. At the close of these lectures the proposition was made to form a farmers' club in town. The gentlemen present at the time this proposition was made fully approved of the idea suggested, and a meeting was appointed for March 29, to be held at the Falls schoolhouse. This meeting was held and various officers and committees elected *pro tem.* The purpose of the association was declared to be "the advancement of agriculture as an art, and as a science," and a constitution and by-laws were drafted and later accepted and adopted. At the next meeting held the following permanent officers were elected: President, George Price; Vice-Presidents, W. H. Tiffany, S. S. Guild, S. M. Stanley; Secretary, Eliot Hunt; Treasurer, Elisha G. May.

In August of the same year "a field meeting was held on the farm of S. M. Stanley. This was something quite novel, and a decided advance in the history of farmers' clubs." At the annual meeting held in July, 1869, it was voted to have reports of the various meetings of the association sent to the *Massachusetts Ploughman*, *Boston Cultivator*, *New England Farmer*, and *Pawtucket Chronicle*. There were field meetings held subsequently at Henry Richardson's and Charles E. Hayward's at which addresses were made by Mr. Leander Wetherell of the *Cultivator*, and various members of the club. The first "fair, and market day" of the association was held on October 14, 1869, and it was celebrated at the old town house.

It was in March, 1870, that the first steps were taken towards procuring grounds and buildings. The tract purchased is near Robinsonville, at the junction of the two roads leading from East to North Attleborough. A building one hundred feet long and sixty feet wide with a mansard roof was erected, and proves to be very well suited for its chief purposes. Besides this there are various other buildings such as the requirements of such an association demand, and the racing track, a half-mile in length, is said to be one of the best in New England. The amount of money expended upon these buildings and grounds was about $25,000. They were appropriately dedicated September 20, 1871, the oration being delivered by Hon. George B. Loring, of Salem, and the following month the annual exhibition was held there for the first time. This society has been of great benefit to agriculturists of the vicinity, and the town has reason to feel a goodly degree of pride in the yearly fairs, which are a real credit to our farmers, and the times of their occurrence are great gala days to hundreds, perhaps we should say thousands, of people for miles around.

The association had but three presidents previous to the reorganization. George Price held the office from 1869 to 1877, Charles E. Hayward from 1877 to 1886, and Elton I. Franklin was elected in 1886 and served till May, 1887. The other officers last chosen were: Vice-Presidents,

Thomas A. Barden, Elisha G. May, William M. Fisher; Secretary, L. F. Mendell; Treasurer, John Thacher. The membership reached a large number, and included many prominent citizens of this town, and some from other towns in the vicinity.

Almost from the beginning the association had been hampered by the large debt it had incurred in building, and putting its grounds in proper order, and it was finally deemed best to form it into a stock company. A petition asking for the desired authority was sent to the Legislature which in due time was favorably received, and it was voted "to incorporate the Attleborough Agricultural Association, with a capital stock of $30,000, and the right to hold property to the amount of $30,000." Agreeably "to a call of a majority of the incorporators," a meeting of the new association was held in Agricultural Hall May 28, 1887. E. I. Franklin was chosen its chairman, and L. F. Mendell secretary. Messrs. J. J. Horton, E. I. Franklin, W. H. Wade, and L. F. Mendell were chosen a committee to present an appropriate constitution. They made a report which was accepted, and after some slight changes adopted. Then the following board of directors was elected: T. A. Barden, E. G. May, W. M. Fisher, E. I. Franklin, W. H. Wade, O. M. Draper, J. G. Barden, Isaac Alger, J. D. Lincoln, D. H. Smith, James Orr, E. S. Williams, R. D. Manchester, R. F. Simmons, J. J. Horton, J. L. Sweet, J. M. Bates, T. I. Smith, F. M. Whiting, C. T. Guild, F. I. Allen (of New York), John Austin (of Providence), and A. H. Sweet (of Norton). John Thacher was chosen treasurer, and L. F. Mendell secretary. These two last-named gentleman "are ex-officio directors," and with the others form a board numbering twenty-five members. This meeting was adjourned without electing the other officers. These were subsequently elected, R. F. Simmons being the president.

The annual meeting was held November 5, 1887, when a reëlection of officers for the coming year took place. The above-named board of directors with the exception of three was chosen: In place of O. M. Draper, J. L. Sweet, and T. I. Smith, E. I. Riley, C. L. Watson, and E. L. Hixon were elected. The present number of stockholders is one hundred and five and the financial condition of the association under the new organization is most encouraging. The officers elected are as follows: President, R. F. Simmons; Vice-Presidents, William M. Fisher, E. G. May; Secretary, L. F. Mendell; Treasurer, John Thacher; Track Committee, Elton I. Franklin; Directors: from North Attleborough, T. A. Barden, Joseph G. Barden, Frank M. Whiting, Earle S. Williams, E. I. Franklin, Charles T. Guild, Elmer I. Riley; from Attleborough, John Thacher, Daniel H. Smith, James J. Horton, Clarence L. Watson, J. M. Bates, William M. Fisher, Isaac Alger, R. D. Manchester; from South Attleborough, James Orr, Elisha G. May; from Attleborough Falls, R. F. Simmons, E. L. Hixon; from Plainville, James D. Lincoln, William H. Wade, L. F. Mendell; from Providence, John Austin; from Norton, A. H. Sweet; from New York, F. I. Allen.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH GASLIGHT COMPANY.

This is an incorporated company, and was organized in April, 1855. Its capital stock was $42,500. The works were erected at the Falls, and were established largely through the instrumentality of H. M. Richards, who about that time purchased the property in that village where he soon after built the stone mill. The manufacture of gas commenced in the November following the formation of the company. In 1874 some $25,000 was spent in enlarging the works, and a new gasometer has been built. In 1876 the estimated value of the company's property was about $80,000. The capacity of the works is one hundred thousand cubic feet per day. About ten miles of pipe have been laid, extending north to the G. A. R. Hall in Plainville, and south to Mr. Freeman's residence below Robinsonville, in which village the company lights the shops as well as those at the Falls proper and in North Attleborough. There are now about three hundred and seventeen consumers.

The first superintendent was Henry Rice, who held the position for twenty years, from July 1, 1855, to August 1, 1875. His successor was Charles S. Colbeth, who continued about seven years. He was succeeded by Mr. Hamlin, who remained a year, and then E. G. Pratt was elected to the office. He resigned in 1887. The president of the company was then Abiel Codding, and the treasurer Charles H. Randall. The board of directors numbered seven.

ATTLEBOROUGH GASLIGHT COMPANY.

This company was formed in 1857, and Dr. Edward Sanford was elected its first president, G. A. Whipple its first treasurer, and Jonathan Peck the first superintendent. The works were built on what is now Dunham Street, near Pine Street, then at a considerable distance from the village, but now quite near its centre, and they were enlarged in 1873. The present length of street pipe is 18,400 feet, the number of consumers 172, and the amount of consumption about 5,448,500 cubic feet yearly. Gas is carried through all the principal streets of the village, north to Blackinton's and south as far as the new residence of Mr. John Cummings, on South Main Street. At first the gas here was made of rosin, but the war caused such a rise in the price of that material that it became necessary to make the change to coal gas, and since 1867 that has been the kind produced. In the month of January of that year twenty thousand feet of gas were made; at the present time the daily production exceeds that amount.

In 1882 new buildings were erected, and these contain all the facilities for the proper production of good gas. The holding capacity of the establishment had become quite inadequate, as a large amount of gas is consumed in the village, especially in the shops and opera house, and additions in this direction have recently been made which provide all the space required for that purpose. This is a very well-managed company, those "most actively connected with it being some of our public-spirited business men." In proof of this may be cited the fact that the former price of $6.50 per thousand feet has been reduced to $2.25, with a better quality of gas. A large share of the late success of the company is due to the efficiency of the superintendent, Mr. Capron. The officers for 1887 were: President, J. W. Capron; Vice-President, G. N. Crandall; Secretary and Treasurer, A. W. Sturdy; Directors, J. W. Capron, G. N. Crandall, S. W. Carpenter, A. W. Sturdy, William M. Fisher, E. S. Horton, G. A. Dean; Trustees, J. W. Capron, G. N. Crandall; Auditors, G. A. Dean, S. W. Carpenter, E. S. Horton; Superintendent, E. S. Capron.

ATTLEBOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT.

Upon the town book, under date October 12, 1859, may be found the following record: "Voted $1,000 reward for detection and conviction of person who set fire to Steam Power Co.'s building." This reward was never claimed, and that matter is still covered with mystery, but one of the results of the fire proved to be beneficial. So helpless did the people find themselves in the face of this fire, which for hours threatened the complete destruction of the entire central portion of the village, that the serious attention of the citizens was turned toward the question of fires, and the urgent need of providing more adequate means of extinguishing them than hastily collected wooden buckets or a few wet blankets provided by private individuals proved to be was fully realized and acknowledged.

Somewhat upon the principle of locking the door securely after the thief has escaped with the stolen property, the damage having been done and the fire being thoroughly out, means of prevention were taken. November 19, 1859, the town constituted the school districts number fifteen, eighteen, and twenty-one a fire district, and a fire department was established therein. Joseph W. Capron was chosen clerk, and a board of engineers consisting of one chief and nine assistants was appointed. These were: Wheaton Briggs, chief, and Ezekiel Bates, Jesse R. Carpenter, Henry Weaver, Willard Blackinton, Augustus A. Starkey, David E. Holman, Handel N. Daggett, George N. Crandall, George J. Sturdy, assistant engineers. A hand engine was purchased, and lodged in a small building at the foot of Bank Street, which was the engine-house for many years, and was the place where the fire company's meetings were held. It took twenty-four men to manage that engine, and it is carefully preserved as a souvenir of "the good old times." For many years the fire companies were entirely voluntary; later the men were paid while on active duty at the rate of payment per hour in their respective shops, and in 1880 the rule was made that they should be paid thirty cents an hour whenever they were training, as well as when they were engaged in actual service. About 1885 the fire and water districts were united by an act of the Legislature. Since the establishment of the waterworks only hose-carts have been necessary, as thus far the pressure they supply has proved to be sufficient for the needs of the fire department. There are two hose companies: D. H. Smith, No. 1, on South Main Street, and Union, No. 2, on Dunham Street, corner of Union Street;

and one hook and ladder company — E. S. Horton, No. 1, at the same place — which has two Bangor extension ladders. These companies have each twelve members and a captain, and are an efficient, and up to the present time have proved to be a sufficient, force.

The entire department is under the control of a chief engineer and four assistants. In 1887 these were: D. H. Smith, chief; T. R. Gay, first assistant; E. V. Carpenter, second; J. W. Cody, third; and R. B. Nye, fourth — a competent and reliable board. About two years ago the "Gamewell System of Fire Alarm" was introduced into the village, and ten alarm boxes, two indicators, and a steam gong, using three and one-half miles of wire, were placed. These proved to be satisfactory, but they were insufficient, and the district soon voted to place five more boxes. The fire district is comprised within a radius of a mile from the site of the old depot, which was just in front of "Union hall." The chief engineer's report for 1886 stated that the department was in a satisfactory condition, with but few wants to be supplied, the most important among them being some more prompt method of transportation for the hose-carts. Five fire alarms had been given during that year, only two of which had caused any amount of damage, the largest estimate being $500.

ATTLEBOROUGH WATER DISTRICT.

The gentlemen most largely instrumental in establishing this district were G. A. Dean, Dr. J. R. Bronson, and the late William D. Wilmarth. An act incorporating said district was drawn up by the late John Daggett and presented to the Legislature in 1873 and was approved by that body. The first Water Board consisted of William D. Wilmarth, Edwin Cummings, and S. W. Carpenter, the first-named gentleman being its chairman. The treasurer of the district was G. A. Dean. The necessary funds were raised by the issuing of bonds by the district, and the sum of $20,000 was thus raised the first year and $40,000 additional the next year. In 1877 the district was authorized to make a third issue to the amount of $6,000, and subsequently still further sums were needed.

The reservoir, a brick tower and a conspicuous object from its elevated position on County Street hill, was constructed in 1874 and has a capacity of about two hundred and twenty-five thousand gallons. The water is supplied from a spring near the river and is also pumped from the river itself by contract with A. Bushee & Co. The district originally comprised a radius of half a mile from the site of the old railroad depot; but when it was merged into the fire district its limit was increased to a mile radius to correspond with that district.

The water commissioners for 1887 were G. A. Dean and William M. Stone, and Dr. George B. Fittz was registrar and superintendent. The prudential committee of the entire district now called the Attleborough Fire District were George A. Adams, Dr. George Mackie, and Jason L. Wells.

The registrar's report for the year 1886 stated that there were then 278 metres in use, and the metred water used during that year amounted to 9,603,834 gallons, of which 7,119,005 gallons had been used by families. The district was then furnishing water to 581 houses, 878 families, and besides the metres by faucets to the number of 466. Considerable new pipe was laid during that year, and eight new hydrants were set, making of the latter a total of 106 in the district. It is acknowledged that year by year the water supply in this part of the town is becoming more and more inadequate to the ever-increasing needs of the community, and in the case of a sudden demand from a large fire there is danger that it might fail. During 1886 it was suggested that a union be made with Plainville and the Falls to obtain water from Whiting's and Archer's ponds in Wrentham. A committee chosen for the purpose investigated that matter thoroughly, employing a competent engineer to go over the ground. After due consideration the committee reported that in their estimation the proposed plan was not feasible, and the district accepted their views. No other definite plan for increasing the supply here was proposed, and nothing further has been done in that direction. The ordinary yearly expenses of both branches of the Attleborough Fire Department amount to about $5,000, the additional appropriations made by the town being to carry the large debt incurred for construction, extension, etc.[1]

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[1] Since the above date the property of the water district has been purchased by the town. A much larger tower has been constructed very near the old one on County Hill; the roof of that building,

ATTLEBOROUGH IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

A movement for lighting the streets in the East village by private subscription was started by Joseph M. Bates and the late William D. Wilmarth, and the Improvement District was the outgrowth of this movement. The district was organized in 1875 by action of the town which was taken on November 22 of that year under provision of the Statutes of 1870. This and the water district were together and included the same territory until the union of the latter with the fire district. The Improvement District Act provides for the care of libraries, sidewalks, lighting of streets, employment of policemen, watchmen, etc.

The first prudential committee was composed of the following gentlemen: Albert M. Everett, J. L. Carpenter, Mace B. Short. The first secretary was Charles O. Sweet, and the first treasurer Shepard W. Carpenter. The latter served until May, 1880, when he declined a reëlection and Mr. Sweet became treasurer and continues to hold that office in connection with that of secretary. The prudential committee for 1887 were L. M. Stanley, E. S. Horton, H. A. Bodman.

This district had in charge especially the lighting of the streets, and when at the annual meeting of 1887 the town voted to assume that expense its business was virtually at an end. The treasurer had in his hands at that time a cash balance of over $1,100, and at the annual meeting of the district it was voted to direct him to place all funds in his possession at interest, subject to the approval of the prudential committee, and they were directed to dispose of the property of the district in such manner as they deemed would be for its best interests. The organization still exists and will probably be continued for a time, as a movement may be made toward its assuming maintenance of the library. For the present, however, it is practically defunct.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH FIRE DISTRICT.

This district was organized October 14, 1871, on petition of J. D. Richards, F. G. Whitney, Simeon Bowen, Stephen Richardson, Charles E. Smith, H. F. Barrows, W. D. Whiting, O. M. Draper, Henry Rice, A. Codding, Jr., and E. Ira Richards; and Thomas A. and Joseph G. Barden and John Stanley were also actively engaged in the enterprise. It comprised the territory included in School Districts No. 1 and No. 4 in that village. The fire department was organized a month later, on November 18, when a prudential committee and a board of engineers were elected. The former consisted of Samuel S. Ginnodo, Stephen Richardson, and Randolph Knapp, and the latter of John Stanley, chief engineer, and Charles E. Smith, Charles B. Carpenter, David D. Codding, and Charles E. W. Sherman, assistants. Thomas A. Barden was the first clerk of the district.

Volunteers to form an engine company were called for, and the following are the names which were presented and approved: Foreman, Charles E. Smith; First Assistant Foreman, Theodore B. Hazzard; Second Assistant, Charles W. H. Day; Clerk and Treasurer, H. H. Evertson; Engineer, H. F. Briggs; Fireman, W. A. Bennett; Hosemen, T. W. Draper, E. B. Follett, C. S. Ballou, Benjamin H. Smith, J. Norman Hall, A. M. Sperry, Willard E. Hall, Thaddeus Terry, Edward R. Darling, George H. Spaulding, Albert J. Smith, William H. Smith, H. E. Thompson, George Becker, Osmond H. Atwood, W. P. Bennett, Joseph C. Bennett, A. O. Hall, H. W. Ferguson, Isaac B. Smith, Jacob A. Blackinton, W. H. Stanley, Charles B. Thompson, Willis J. Follett; thirty in all.

A similar call was made for a hook and ladder company, and the following volunteers were appointed its members: Foreman, William E. Clark; First Assistant, H. W. Caswell; Clerk and Treasurer, John A. Wollmer; Hook and Ladder men, Gardner Whiting, Timothy Collins, Henry McLear, Hiram Packard, E. S. Brastow, H. H. Bennett, George Macker, Charles Bishop, A. W. Bowers, N. K. Bliss, Elmer Riley, Charles A. Somes, James Day, Jr., T. Mace, Crosdale Robinson, Arthur W. Read, George K. Gibbs; twenty in all.

These men were at first all volunteers, and all the apparatus was drawn by hand. In 1873

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which still stands, was partially destroyed by fire. Property was purchased near Orr's mill, at South Attleborough, containing a fine watershed. Here a large well was sunk and an engine-house built which contains the necessary pumping machinery. The grounds also contain the engineer's dwelling. The supply promises to be adequate for a long time to come, and the water is of a better quality than that from the former source.

horses were first put to the engine, and in 1880 to the hose-cart. The apparatus is now all fitted with swinging harness after the manner of the fire departments of our large cities, and four horses are always "kept on hand to answer all alarms." During the first five years after the organization of this department there were twenty fires which occasioned a loss of $111,450, but this was almost entirely covered by insurance.

John Stanley, the first chief engineer, remained in office until 1879, when he declined to serve any longer, and C. E. Smith was elected his successor, serving for a year and four months. Upon his resignation J. B. Peck was chosen chief engineer, and was serving at the time of division. Mr. Barden continued to be clerk for eight years, and in April, 1879, was succeeded by his son, F. I. Barden, who is still in the position.

In 1882 Chief Peck recommended a reduction in the force of the department which was approved and took place. There is now a chief engineer, with two assistants instead of four; the Steamer Company numbers twenty instead of thirty men, and the Hook and Ladder Company ten instead of twenty, making the entire force thirty-three men. Up to this date the men had been unpaid, but since that time they have had a small salary. The chief engineer and superintendent of fire alarms have each $100 per year; the assistant engineers $25 each; the engineer of the steamer $150; the fireman of the steamer $100; the hose and ladder men each $25. In 1885 the Gamewell Electric Fire Alarm Telegraph "was put in, with seven street boxes and three and a half miles of wire in circuit." The district covered by the fire, water, and fire-alarm departments is about one square mile. The steam engine used by the fire department was built in 1871 by William Jeffers, of Pawtucket, and remains as it was originally, and in excellent condition, with the exception that in 1881 a new boiler was put in.

During the year 1886 there were fifteen fires in the north part of the town, and two of them were outside the district limits. The expenses of this department for that year amounted to $3,085.55.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH WATER COMPANY.

This company, consisting of Henry F. Barrows, Handel N. Daggett, Joseph G. Barden, and their associates and successors, was chartered May 16, 1883. "This charter gave the Fire District the right to purchase the Franchise of the Water Company at any time after organization," a right said district exercised at once, for on June 21, 1883, on petition of B. Porter, Jr., Henry Rice, F. G. Pate, and forty others, it was voted to purchase this franchise for the sum of $100. The Water Company organized June 16, 1883, with H. F. Barrows, president, H. N. Daggett, clerk, and J. G. Barden, treasurer. The charter of this company was transferred to the Fire District on July 17, 1883.

In 1884 the waterworks were constructed, and pipes laid, the water being turned into the mains for the first time on the thirteenth of September of that year. Previous to this time water for use in cases of fire was obtained from "Fire Wells," and through pipes laid to the river. It was soon ascertained that in the greater part of the district the pressure would be quite sufficient without the use of the "steamer," so a hose-cart was purchased for the fire company; but the steamer is still retained to be sent out in case of a second alarm. The water is taken from a well which is sunk in some gravel beds found at the north end of the village. It is thirty feet deep and thirty feet in diameter, and is lined with brick laid in cement to within two feet of the bottom. Thus all the water which enters it must come in at the bottom and through gravel. The reservoir, "or standpipe," is constructed of boiler iron, is sixty feet high, forty feet in diameter, and holds 565,000 gallons of water. The base of this reservoir stands a hundred and forty feet higher than the greater portion of the district, so that there is a "200 foot head at more than two thirds of the hydrants." Its position is on a hill which is about half a mile from both the well and pumping station, and the connection is by a main sixteen inches in diameter. There are some ten and a half miles of pipe in the district, varying from six to sixteen inches in diameter, and there are ninety-five hydrants, with two leading hose and one steamer outlet.

The first water commissioners were F. G. Pate, F. S. Draper, and E. G. Pratt. This board had charge of the construction of the waterworks, which cost $100,000, and since the original outlay some $40,000 in addition has been expended. These works are entirely adequate to the present needs of the district, and for those of the future for a long period, and the supply of water is ample. The water commissioners' report for 1886 was most favorable and showed

the property of their department to be in excellent condition, and they assured the people of the district that the water supply was "practically inexhaustible within the district, and not liable to pollution from any known source." The expenses for that year had been $3,034.42 and the receipts $6,470.65, showing a creditable balance upon the right side. The number of gallons of water pumped during the year was 35,592,361; the average number of gallons consumed per day about 97,511, and the average number of hours required for the pumping three and a fraction (seven minutes).

The officers of the entire district which, as in the East village, is called the "Fire District" were as follows in 1887: Water Commissioners, Sanford Hall, Anthony H. Bliss, Walter P. Whittemore; Superintendent of Water Works, Walter P. Whittemore; Clerk, C. A. Kenney; Treasurer, George W. Cheever; Chief Engineer of Fire Department, John B. Peck; First Assistant, T. W. Draper; Second Assistant, O. L. Swift; Prudential Committee, C. T. Guild, T. G. Sandland, J. H. Peckham.

THE UNION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT.

This district was organized September 6, 1875, and embraced the School Districts No. 1 and No. 4, North Attleborough. It had three purposes in view; namely, to improve the sidewalks within its limits, to light the streets, and to support a public library. The following-named gentlemen were actively engaged in the organization and early work: S. S. Ginnodo, F. G. Whitney, F. G. Pate, Joseph G. Barden, B. Porter, Jr., O. M. Draper, H. F. Barrows, Joseph E. Pond, Jr., John Stanley, E. K. Dunbar, Thomas A. Barden, D. D. Codding, Charles E. Smith, and J. D. Richards.

On September 16, 1875, the district voted to accept the property of the North Attleborough Library Association and to become responsible for the maintenance of the library, and appropriated $500 for that purpose. At the same time $500 was appropriated for sidewalks and $3,000 for street lighting and current and incidental expenses. From 1875 till 1884 the streets were lighted by kerosene and gasoline, but on April 14 of that year, on recommendation of the then prudential committee, it was voted to light the streets with gas and to contract therefor with the North Attleborough Gaslight Company. On April 12, 1886, electric lighting was adopted, and that method is continued by the town.[1]

Following are the various officers of the district from the organization: Prudential Committee from 1875 to 1878, Felix G. Whitney, Samuel S. Ginnodo, Francis G. Pate; from 1878 to 1880, F. G. Whitney, S. S. Ginnodo, Charles E. Smith; for 1880–81, Charles E. Smith, C. S. Colbath, F. G. Pate; for 1881–82, C. E. Smith, C. S. Colbath, J. D. Richards; from 1882 to 1884, J. G. Barden, B. Porter, Jr., F. G. Pate; from 1884 to 1887, E. I. Franklin, H. M. Maxson, C. C. Peck; for 1887–88, C. E. Smith, O. M. Draper, H. M. Maxson; for 1888–89, C. C. Peck, H. M. Maxson, R. Donnell. The first clerk was Joseph E. Pond, Jr., who was in office from 1875 to 1885; the second F. I. Barden, from 1885 to 1889. The first treasurer was Joseph G. Barden, for 1875–76; the second, F. S. Draper, from 1876 to 1884; the third, W. W. Sherman, from 1884 to 1886; the fourth, J. H. Peckham, from 1886 to 1889.

The town having assumed all its duties the Improvement District is practically abolished. The only matters connected with it now requiring adjustment are financial, there being a debt upon the organization. It was hoped that at its annual meeting for 1889 the town would vote to assume this debt and thus bring all the district's affairs to a final close; but this was not accomplished and therefore a continuance of officers was necessary. Those for the preceding year were reëlected. The two improvement districts of the old town are therefore in similar condition — well officered but almost dutiless, and to all intents and purposes extinct.[2]

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[1] Light had been supplied by the North Attleborough Steam and Electric Company, but in 1892 the town decided to have a plant of its own. During the latter part of the following year this was put in, and early in 1894 light was used for the first time. The incandescent system of lights is used.

[2] The Editor deemed it best to continue the sketch of the Union Improvement District beyond the date of division because its work came to an end, and it will not be long continued as an organization.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH STEAM AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

This company dates its beginning a little over a year previous to the division. It started with a small plant, including one dynamo, one engine, and one boiler, and had but twenty-three lights in operation. These were in stores in North Attleborough. After a time, as they proved to be excellent, the Union Improvement District voted to use similar lights in the streets. At the annual meeting for 1886 the town voted to light the road between the North and East villages, and at the annual meeting for 1887 extended this vote "to assume the expense of lighting the public streets," and appropriated $6,500 for the purpose. These lights were placed and proved satisfactory, and soon stores in the East village began to adopt the electric mode of lighting.

The company, by good management, was enabled to start with a capital of a little more than $250 per lamp — about half the usual amount for such companies — and has therefore been able to supply light at a much lower rate than the majority of other like companies. With recent additions the station is now (1887) eighty-five by thirty feet. It contains two boilers of two hundred and ten horse power (having the Jarvis patent setting which demands the smallest possible amount of fuel), three engines, a steam-pump, and all the practical and ingenious appliances for the carrying on of the necessary work. There are five dynamos, three for street circuits and two for inside lighting, so arranged that the circuit can be maintained with each dynamo and either engine, in this way every chance for any serious delay in lighting being avoided. In April, 1887, the company was operating fifty-five miles of wire, with seven hundred poles, one hundred and forty arc and eighty-five incandescent lights, and reported itself in a very satisfactory and successful condition with encouraging prospects for the future.

The officers for 1887 were as follows: President, G. A. Hancock; Treasurer, H. M. Daggett, Jr.; Clerk, F. I. Babcock. There were five directors: the three above-named gentlemen, with J. E. Draper and Harvey Clap in addition.[1]

WILLIAM A. STREETER POST, NO. 145, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

"At a meeting of soldiers and sailors, held May 26, 1869, J. B. Savery was chosen chairman and E. R. Read secretary. E. S. Horton was chosen marshal for Saturday, May 29th, and was authorized to appoint two assistants. It was voted that as far as possible black hats be worn. Voted to adjourn to 12-30 P.M. Saturday, May 29."

The above is a short account of the preliminary meeting to the first Memorial Day service in town. The address upon that occasion was delivered by Rev. Rufus P. Stebbins, D.D., of Cambridge, Mass., and the band from the neighboring town of Mansfield furnished the musical portion of the program.

During May, 1871, a meeting took place in Engine Hall on Bank Street, where the arrangements were made for the observance of Memorial Day of that year. Just subsequent to this time, June 12, 1871, this Post was mustered in in Union Hall. Its first meeting-place, where members met the following August, was Bates' Hall, and on September 16 Union Hall was hired for four dollars a night. The following spring the Post moved into Dean's Building, and on August 11, 1873, into Briggs' Block, where it still continues to have its quarters.

On March 11, 1872, a delegation from P. M. Whiting Post had a conference with William A. Streeter Post in regard to the insertion of an article in the warrant for the coming annual town meeting, asking for a public appropriation to defray the necessary expenses for the ceremonies of Memorial Day. The desired article was inserted, the town voted favorably upon it and made an appropriation of three hundred dollars. The custom then established has been continued and without change, excepting that once or twice perhaps the sum named may have varied slightly. The town has also supplied some permanent tablets for marking the graves of her soldiers. In 1887 the whole number of graves to be decorated was one hundred and five besides two marked "Unknown": thirty-two at Woodlawn and twenty-six at Mt. Hope Cemetery; twenty in the Old Kirk Yard, nine each at South Attleborough and Dodgeville;

[1] This company subsequently purchased the old Farmers' factory property, to which they built an addition and used it as their power-house. The building has been partially destroyed by fire, causing cessation of cars and lights.

eight at St. Mary's Cemetery, and three at Briggsville. In the two last-named yards are the unknown graves.

Up to 1887 there had been a total membership in this Post of two hundred and thirty-five, and at that time there were "120 comrades in good standing." The first death of a comrade of the Post was that of R. H. Lee, in June, 1872, and the last previous to the above-named year that of Gideon M. Horton, in December, 1886. Previous to this date the sum of $2,277 had been expended in charity.

Following are the names of the Past Commanders of this Post: D. H. Smith, E. S. Horton, E. C. Martin, A. T. Wales, W. H. Wade, W. H. Goff, W. J. Thompson, Edwin J. Horton, M. O. Wheaton, E. W. Rhodes, F. L. Le Baron, T. K. Gay, George L. Jillson, E. D. Guild. E. S. Horton served as commander for three years. The officers for 1887 were as follows: Commander, Emmons D. Guild; S. V. C., Loring Cole; J. V. C., Charles L. Fuller; Adjutant, R. G. Bell; Quartermaster, Mark O. Wheaton; Chaplain, D. E. Adams; Surgeon, E. R. Read; O. of D., G. A. Taylor; O. of G., G. H. Alfred; Sergeant-Major, E. S. Horton; Quartermaster Sergeant, G. R. Adams; Delegates to Department Convention, E. S. Horton, R. J. Bell; Alternates, E. C. Martin, A. T. Wales.

The Fourth of July, 1872, was celebrated here after the real New England fashion with a clambake, etc. In this always pleasant festival to true "sons of the soil," William A. Streeter Post had an important share. The celebration took place in Peck's grove, and was made the occasion for the presentation to the "Grand Army" of a beautiful State flag, which had been purchased for them by the ladies of the East village. A group of young ladies, wearing the patriotic colors, bore the banner, and one of them voicing doubtless the thoughts and feelings of all the loyal women there, presented the flag to the Post with these words: —

"*Members of the William A. Streeter Division of the Grand Army of the Republic.*

"Eleven years ago, when the booming of the first rebel gun sounded the thrilling call — to arms, Massachusetts nobly responded with regiment after regiment of her sons, and, as she sent them forth, she placed in the hands of each, with the country's flag, her own banner, that together they might lead her brave boys on to battle for the right.

"I need not recount to you who shared in them, the toils and dangers, or the triumphs of the war, but those banners came back with shattered staves, pierced by bullets, and bathed in blood, to tell the story of the dreadful conflict, and they shall be preserved in our State Capitol as her richest treasure, with the other memorials of Massachusetts bravery.

"War no longer desolates our land. Peace and prosperity reign within her borders; and thanks be to Him whose strong right arm hath gotten us the victory, we are once more a free, united people, and today, when we are met to celebrate this welcome anniversary of our national independence, we bring to you another banner. Yet, glorious as was the history of those war flags, we cannot ask for this a similar fate, for we do not forget that many of our best beloved, who went forth to the contest full of manly strength and ardor, fell beneath their folds, and returned to us cold and lifeless forms, or lie buried beneath the soil of some distant Southern plain.

"All honor to our martyred heroes; bravely they fought, nobly they fell.

'O for the death of those
Who for their country die,
Sink on her bosom to repose,
And triumph where they lie.'

"On this our greatest national holiday, greeted from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with ringing of bells, booming of cannon, and joyous acclamations, and, in the words of an ardent patriot of our own Massachusetts, uttered on the very day of the Declaration, 'celebrated with thanksgiving, with festivity, with bonfires, and illuminations,' mid sounds of martial music, and the tramp of marching feet, this banner comes as a fitting reminder of those scenes which you as soldiers witnessed together, and we offer it as a partial expression of our gratitude for your patriotic services in the field.

"We trust it may never wave over more warlike scenes than we see around us today; but, if ever again hostile force molest, or fratricidal hand be raised against the land we love, voices

from the soldiers' graves all around us, bid us tell you to bear it side by side with the old stars and stripes, if need be, into the thickest of the fight, and bring it back from the field of battle stained by no act of cowardice, though but a single hand be left to hold its broken staff, and of its silken folds but a few tattered shreds remain.

"In presenting this banner, we hope that nothing but the destroying hand of time will ever mar its beauty. By those principles founded on Plymouth Rock, and proclaimed from Independence Hall, by the memory of that cause you fought, and so many of your comrades died to save, we charge you, in war and in peace, in life and in death, be true to God and your country.

"Maj. Horton, —

"I now deliver into your hands this banner, the gift of the ladies of East Attleborough. Let it be a rivet in the link which this year adds to that mighty chain of events, binding this day, July 4th, 1872, to that ever memorable day, July 4th, 1776.

'Our star-spangled banner,
Oh! long may it wave
O'er this land of the free,
And this home of the brave.'"

Major Horton received the banner in soldierly fashion, and grasping its standard in his right hand responded to the little speech of presentation, on behalf of himself and his comrades, in the following gallant manner: —

"Miss Daggett, —

"In accepting this beautiful Flag at your hands the gift of the Ladies of East Attleboro' to Wm. A. Streeter Post No. 145, Dept. of Mass. Grand Army of the Republic I would return to you their most grateful thanks.

"We heartily respond to the noble and patriotic sentiments which accompany the gift, and which have been so happily expressed. We will ever cherish them in our hearts, and be guided by them in our conduct.

"Long may it be ere this Flag shall be borne through the terrible scenes of war, but we assure you on the honor of a soldier, it shall never be unfurled in the cause of *treason*. Should the time ever come again when the peace of our country shall be disturbed by war's alarms, this gift, which I hold in my hands shall be unfurled only in the sacred cause of Law, Union and Liberty.

"Should foreign foes ever invade our shores, or domestic traitors ever again attempt the overthrow of this glorious fabric of free institutions reared for us by the hands of our fathers, this Flag shall stand foremost in our country's defence, and in the hour of battle and danger the memories associated with this gift, leading us in the advance, will inspire us with renewed courage and a firmer faith in our country's cause. We will be animated — as if inscribed on its beautiful folds — by the immortal words, —

'Union and Liberty forever.'"

The hope expressed on this occasion was realized; no bloody shot or shell has ever marred the beauty of that silken banner, but time, the inevitable, the sure destroyer of all perishable things, did lay his hand upon it till it became little more than a worn and faded remnant of the once fair emblem. The ladies of Attleborough, however, again came to the rescue of the needy, and another equally beautiful State flag was purchased by them, and on the evening of the installation of its officers, in January, 1877, was presented to the Post by another young lady, with the following well-chosen words: —

"*Mr. Commander, officers, and members of William A. Streeter Post, Grand Army of the Republic.*

"We are told, and also read in history, that deeds of valor and heroic acts performed by the Union soldiers of the late civil war, were recognized and rewarded according to their merits. The disbanding of the army did not sever the bonds of fraternity, charity, and loyalty, and ever since the organization of this post, you have extended the right hand of fellowship and dispensed charity freely to every needy comrade, and so firmly cemented the bonds of loyalty that nothing but death can sever. And now, Mr. Commander, this has not fallen by the wayside

unnoticed, and I, in behalf of W. A. Streeter corps, assisted by their lady friends of Attleboro', present to you this flag, and may the record of this post ever be as pure as the color of this emblem."

Commander Guild accepted the gift in the following happy manner: —

"*Mrs. President, Ladies of the Relief Corps, and Friends:* —

"The pleasant duty devolves upon me as commander of this post, to receive from your hands this beautiful banner, its white folds emblematical of the peace which now pervades our once distracted country, its strong arm and firmly grasped sword bearing witness to the means by which that peace was secured. We come together to-night under its peaceful folds, you, the mothers, wives and daughters, we, the fathers, husbands and sons, not to recall the bitterness of the past, but its most cherished memories, of when you with willing hands and loyal hearts buckled on our armor and bade us God speed, in the work that was before us. For this you have our country's thanks. For what you have been to us since, so truly an aid and relief corps, you have our sincere thanks, and it needed no token of remembrance to keep alive our interest in your organization; nevertheless, we shall cherish and protect it, as we did the flag of our country, with even nearer and dearer ties to bind us to it. And now in behalf of William A. Streeter Post, allow me to extend to your our most heartfelt thanks."

Still another gift to the Post deserves mention. On the evening of November 3, 1886, by invitation, the members met with the Women's Relief Corps in the Grand Army Hall. The president spoke a few words of greeting and welcome to the guests, and then presented to them another member of the Corps, who very prettily expressed the interest of the Corps in the Grand Army, and of the appreciation of its members of the favor and kindness shown to them by the Post; then as a proof of their sincerity requesting the Post to accept an offering more material and substantial than words. This was an altar, consisting of a plush-covered table resting on four brass cannon, the lower connecting shelf containing a pile of cannonballs.

For once Attleborough soldiers were taken completely by surprise; but Commander Guild, like an able general, began at once to rally at least his mental forces, in order to make the best defence possible. He found himself, however, entirely surrounded by the smilingly victorious enemy, and wholly at their mercy, with no alternative but to accept the situation — and the gift. This he finally did, with becoming courage and in proper soldierly fashion, on behalf of himself and his comrades. With a few well-chosen words he gracefully capitulated to his fair foe, apparently well content with their terms of unconditional surrender on the part of the Post to the pleasures of a social evening.

The Grand Army "quarters" are quite commodious and very comfortably furnished, and the large hall contains a goodly number of interesting relics of the war. Upon the walls, among the other flags, hang two famous guidons, the one carried by Lemuel Gay, and by him secreted during his days of captivity in the prisons of the South, and brought home with him on his return, and the other brought back by Major Horton, from the same regiment, the Fifty-eighth Massachusetts Volunteers. This regiment started for the field with six guidons, two red, two blue, and two white ones, presented to it by New Bedford. After the services in the field were ended it was found that but two of these guidons were left, and the colonel of the regiment proposed to keep them as souvenirs of the Fifty-eighth's experiences. Major Horton took the liberty of differing with his commanding officer upon that point, and decided that the two had better be separated, little dreaming that the one placed in Mr. Gay's care would ever be brought back. Upon one occasion, therefore, in the colonel's absence, one disappeared, and he never found it again. "All 's fair in love and war," and so the Attleborough Grand Army is the fortunate possessor of more than double a company's share of these guidons of the Fifty-eighth.

Among the relics carefully preserved are various pieces of Southern scrip, and a Bible picked up near Petersburg, Va., by Major Horton; two canes made from stockades, the one from Andersonville, the other from Libby prison; some pipes whose owners — Charles William H. Harley and Charles William Upham of the Fifty-eighth — were shot with them in their pockets; and two briarwood pipes made in prison, in one of which Major Horton secreted money. He had thirty-five dollars in greenbacks when he was captured and he managed to smuggle them into prison with him, and to preserve them as tobacco. There is a box whittled in Andersonville

by J. C. Wilmarth and used by him for salt when he could get it; and various letters, rings, and ornaments of bone made in prison are also to be seen. There are a number of bullets, shells, etc., from many different battlefields, and among the former is one carried by a man in his leg for twelve years before it was extracted; a drum-cord taken from a drum at the Battle of the Wilderness may be seen, a picture of a cottonpress in New Orleans, drawn by Charles Goodier, a mallet made from a bit of the stockade at Andersonville, specimens of candlesticks used by soldiers, a roll of bandage, army buttons, etc., and one relic of Revolutionary days — a piece of a blanket used by a soldier of that time and presented to Major Horton by an old lady in New Hampshire.

William A. Streeter Post owns a lot in Woodlawn Cemetery, upon which there is a suitable monument designed among the members themselves. These have been paid for wholly by soldiers of the army and navy.

It may be of interest to have here a list of the comrades of the Post who were confined as prisoners during the war, with places and time of confinement: —

Emmons D. Guild,
Richmond, Belle Isle, Andersonville,
Savannah, Mellen, Charleston, Florence.
16 months, 14 days.
George W. Horton,
Tallahassee, Andersonville, Florence.
12 months, 12 days.
Eli Barrett,
Libby, Columbia, Castle Thunder.
11 months.
John C. Cummings,
Andersonville, Florence,
10 months.
H. G. Danforth,
Danville, Andersonville, Florence,
9 months, 21 days.
Everett S. Horton,
Petersburg, Libby, Salisbury, Danville,
5 months;
Selected as hostage January, 1865.
Lemuel Gay,
Libby, Salisbury, Danville,
5 months.
J. C. Wilmarth,
Andersonville, Mellen, Florence, Savannah,
7 months.
George L. Titus,
Libby, Belle Isle, Salisbury,
6 months, 18 days.
Edward C. Martin,
Belle Isle,
42 days.
R. J. Bell,
Libby,
53 days.
C. W. Bowen,
Belle Isle,
42 days.
Silas H. Wilson,
Libby,
56 days.

Richmond Holley,
Castle Thunder, Belle Isle,
12 weeks.
Jahiel Jordan,
Danville, Libby,
4 months.
Died at Andersonville,
Attleborough soldiers,
George P. Johnson, George H. Norton,
A. Baylies Cummings.

The purposes of the G. A. R. are too familiar to every one to need either explanation or comment, but if the ceremonies of Memorial Day were the beginning and the end of its work, and it had no other, nothing better could have been projected as the basis of an organization. No better motto could be devised than the one used by the order regarding each of its dead: —

"For what he was and all he dared,
Remember him to-day."

William A. Streeter Post has always been faithful in the discharge of its Soldiers' Day duties, and the public services are always well arranged and interesting.

The following "Memorial Hymn" was written for one of these occasions some years since by "our town poet," whose pen was never idle in those dark days, when words of hope and patriotic cheer were so often and so sorely needed, and whose time and talents are freely given to advance every good cause: —

"May, with fragrant offering,
Dewy with the touch of Spring,
Wakens memories sad and sweet
Of the lives so brave and fleet.

Heroes, in the war they stood,
Battling for the nation's good,
Crown them with immortal fame,
Blend in song each honored name.

Grateful thanks with tears are shed
On the living and the dead;
Children's voices chant the lay
Sacred to Memorial Day.

Mother earth, upon thy breast,
Fold thy mantle where they rest.
We will trust Eternal power,
To revive each mortal flower."

"They fought to give us peace, and lo!
They gained a better peace than ours."

We of the North thus carefully year by year place our votive offerings over the forms of those buried among us, but there are many from the "ranks of our dead" lying on far Southern plains or in distant, quiet churchyards whom we cannot reach with our fragrant garlands: still these are not all forgotten, for it is said that when they of the South year after year like ourselves decorate the graves of their own soldiers they generously scatter sweet blossoms over friend and foe alike.

Nothing could prove more conclusively that the bitter animosities and burning hatreds naturally engendered by the causes which led to and carried on the war are fast dying out than this simple fact — a fact quite properly referred to here. One stanza of a beautiful poem which was written to commemorate the first of the general decorative ceremonies by women of the South so aptly describes the feeling pervading the land at this the end of a quarter-

century since the close of the war that it seems fitting to quote it as the most appropriate finish possible to a sketch of an organization whose very name must of necessity recall the former days of fierce and bloody strife: —

"No more shall the war-cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever
When they laurel the graves of our dead!
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;
Love and tears for the Blue,
Tears and love for the Gray."

SONS OF VETERANS.

The first camp organized under this name was at Pittsburg, Penn., in 1881, by Major A. P. Davis, and with the following objects in view: —

"Sec. 1. To keep green the memories of our Fathers, and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union.

"Sec. 2. To aid the members of the Grand Army of the Republic in the caring for their helpless and disabled Veterans; to extend aid and protection to their widows and orphans; to perpetuate the memory and history of their heroic dead, and the proper observance of Memorial Day.

"Sec. 3. To aid and assist worthy and needy members of our Order.

"Sec. 4. To inculcate patriotism and love of country, not only among our membership, but among all the people of our land, and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty, and justice to all."

The camp in our town organized April 30, 1884, with the following officers: Captain, C. Adin Smith; First Lieutenant, O. W. Hawkins; Second Lieutenant, E. H. Davis; Chaplain, George Pierce; Orderly Sergeant, W. H. Streeter; Quartermaster Sergeant, E. A. Wales; Color Sergeant, C. H. Meyers; Sergeant of the Guard, J. A. Thayer; Corporal of the Guard, L. A. Wales; Principal Musician, F. I. Jackson; Camp Guard, L. B. Kingman; Picket Guard, J. F. Woodward. The number of charter members was twenty-three, which had increased in 1887 to thirty-two, at which time the following named were the officers: Captain, H. E. Waugh; First Lieutenant, G. C. Parker; Second Lieutenant, G. A. Pierce; Chaplain, O. P. Newell; Quartermaster Sergeant, J. F. Woodward; Orderly Sergeant, C. H. Harwood; Color Sergeant, W. Caswell; Sergeant of the Guard, A. F. Guild; Camp Guard, H. E. Briggs; Musician, W. H. White; Picket Guard, W. Young.

At the commencement a considerable and very commendable amount of interest was manifested in this organization, but at present this is very much on the wane. So decidedly is this the case that there are evident signs of disbandment at no very distant day; but we trust the sons of our old soldiers will not suffer such a course to be pursued. We ought to remember ourselves, and our children and children's children through the ages to come should be taught to remember, what their fathers did in the great war for the Union by perpetuating unceasingly as a patriotic duty the customs of Memorial Day.[1]

THE WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.

This organization was formed September 4, 1884, with twenty charter members. The societies bearing this name are the outgrowth of similar societies formed during the war for the succor and relief of our soldiers in active service, and now their aim is to primarily furnish aid to needy soldiers and their families, though they combine with their good works some

[1] For some years this lack of interest continued, until the organization almost died out. At one time there were but three "regular paid members," though the list contained some thirteen names. In the spring of 1890 interest revived and a new lease of life was taken. There were in 1891 about thirty members, and the interest is still maintained (1893). [Recently disbanded.]

features of a social nature. Charters are granted to the minor societies by the National Women's Relief Corps.

The first officers of the corps here were: President, Mrs. Lucy C. Martin; Senior Vice-President, Mrs. Lizzie C. Thompson; Junior Vice-President, Mrs. Ellen Fuller; Secretary, Mrs. Isabel Mowton; Treasurer, Mrs. Abby Thompson; Chaplain, Mrs. Sarah E. Cole; Conductor, Mrs. Evelyn Fogg; Guard, Mrs. Fanny Rhodes.

There is a membership fee attached to this organization and a yearly tax of two dollars, payable quarterly; and whenever it becomes necessary money is raised by entertainments of various kinds. During the past year and a half $150 has been raised, and since the formation of the corps fully $200. There is a general fund and a relief fund, with a special relief committee to ascertain needs and present the same to the entire body for its consideration and action. The ladies of this society attend both to their own special charity work and that of the Grand Army Post. During the past winter, that of 1886–87, very little charity work was required — proof positive of the healthful prosperity of the members of the Post.

The officers for 1887 were as follows: President, Mrs. Emma Adams; Senior Vice-President, Mrs. Ellen Fuller; Junior Vice-President, Mrs. Myra Makepeace; Secretary, Mrs. Abby A. Smith; Treasurer, Mrs. Emily Luther; Chaplain, Mrs. Margaret Hawkins; Conductor, Mrs. Sarah E. Hall; Guard, Miss Emma Larrabee.

PRENTISS M. WHITING POST, NO. 192, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

This Post antedates by about two years the William A. Streeter Post, since, as nearly as can be ascertained, it was organized in 1869, and its first charter bore the number "183." Its membership reached one hundred, and it was for some time in a very prosperous condition. Its chief work in the early days was a charitable one, "in relieving the widows and families of soldiers." There appear to have been some twelve commanders: the first, S. H. Bugbee, and his successors, Mr. Bernard, Mr. Loughlin, Dr. O. C. Turner, W. H. Goodhue, Thomas Currain (now deceased), Thomas Sandland (who was the first adjutant), E. D. Sturtevant, W. W. Fisher, B. F. Lincoln, B. T. Bronson, and J. N. Hall. The prosperity of the Post continued unabated for six or seven years, but about 1875 dissensions began to make themselves manifest, and they were finally the means of entirely breaking up the organization. These dissensions were the result of discussions upon "parliamentary usage and rules," which have been characterized as "red hot." Their effect upon the life of the Post was disastrous; interest waned, numbers dwindled to about one half apparently, — fifty-seven, — and at length the charter was returned to the authorities who issued it. Many of the members subsequently joined the William A. Streeter Post and others probably the George H. Maintien Post in Plainville after its formation in 1882.

After the division of the town the citizens of the new town of North Attleborough promised substantial aid financially to Grand Army men there, and especially to those who had been members of this organization, if they would form a new Post and take up the old charter. This latter it was found could not be done, as the old charter had been given to the Plainville Post; but a new Post was formed under the old name, and a new charter and number were obtained. This organization was effected July 15, 1888, and the good work was accomplished largely, it is said, through the efforts of Department Commander Walker. Again S. H. Bugbee became the first commander, and he retained the office through the two succeeding years. The adjutant during those years was R. J. Bell, and he still retains the office. The second beginning seems to have been auspicious, and the existence of the Post thus far both prosperous and encouraging. In its existence of a little more than two years there have been but four deaths among the members, and but four other losses in number, two from resignation and two from change of residence. Those who died were Dr. F. L. Burden, C. E. Burgess, B. F. Evans, and William L. Kilkenny, and one of those who left town was Charles Taylor, who was transferred to the Soldiers' Home at Wickford, R. I. There are now eighty-five active members.

There are two auxiliaries connected with this post — the J. N. Corse Sons of Veterans Camp, No. 57, with a membership of fifty, and the Women's Relief Corps, No. 117, with a membership of one hundred and forty. The ladies of this organization accomplish a large amount of

good work among the families of soldiers, many of whom would perhaps otherwise be dependent upon the town for support.

The officers of the Post for 1891 are as follows: Commander, C. T. Guild; Senior Vice-Commander, O. L. Swift; Junior Vice-Commander, Thomas G. Sandland; Quartermaster, W. P. Whittemore; Chaplain, F. H. Lisdala; Officer of the Day, T. W. Draper; Officer of the Guard, Joseph F. Whiting. The headquarters of the Post are in Knights of Pythias Hall in Barrows' Block. The official year ends in December, and installations occur in January of each year. Following is a list of the members at the present time, 1891: —

S. H. Bugbee,
C. T. Guild,
W. P. Whittemore,
O. L. Sweet,
A. R. Block,
J. L. Aldrich,
Henry H. Bennett,
A. T. Briggs,
J. B. Carter,
Horace Champlin,
Charles W. H. Day,
Gamaliel B. Goff,
F. A. Gould,
Charles Hackett,
B. F. Lincoln,
J. F. Mackinson,
John B. Peck,
E. D. Sturtevant,
Henry G. S. Strucker,
E. H. Tappan,
Samuel Terrell,
Frank H. Tisdale,
Edwin Whitney,
George W. Waterhouse,
T. S. Wood,
John E. Bent,
Osmyn H. Atwood,
Joseph H. Chatham,
C. W. Eaton,
W. W. Fisher,
A. Gordon,
J. Norman Hall,
J. G. Hall,
H. E. Lincoln,
Charles E. May,
George F. Stone,
Joseph Slaiger,
R. J. Bell,
Eben L. Sylvester,
Stephen Ballou,
Augustus B. Hyde,
J. Sample,
Frederick Stafford,
Alfred Worthington,
W. H. Birch,
James N. Woodward,
Harvey Clap,
Albert L. Wheeler,
Patrick A. Kewlin,
Timothy Maloney,
Matthew Shea,
Thomas C. Perkins,
Winfield S. Thompson,
Lewis G. Whiting,
Arlon M. Whipple,
W. E. Wood,
Andrew M. Belcher.[1]
Stephen Stanley,
C. C. Peck,
J. F. Whiting,
T. W. Draper,
George E. Bassett,
Julius I. Bosworth,
John Carroll,
Frank Cassels,
W. B. Congdon,
Halsey W. Draper,
Thomas Farrell,
Thomas G. Sandland,
T. M. Sears,
Daniel R. Rose,
William Smith,
W. Barnett,
B. F. Bronson,
Walter Katon,
Asa M. Franklin,
Jacob Wies,
Charles B. Wood,
Michael McGam,
John Drayton,
Roger Delaney,
Thomas H. Flynn,
Edward Rolfe,
William J. Glassey,
Benjamin H. Lattimer,

NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper in town was the ATTLEBOROUGH BULLETIN, published at North Attleborough, with Mr. J. M. Stewart as editor. Later its name was changed to the BRISTOL COUNTY NEWS, and it was then in the hands of Mr. Robert Sherman, of Pawtucket. Nothing beyond these facts has been obtained relating to these publications.

THE ATTLEBOROUGH CHRONICLE.[2]

"The history of every large and prosperous New England town necessarily includes a recognition of the local press, as potent among the factors that have influenced its character and growth. When a town has reached a certain stage of municipal development, the local newspaper is sure to appear, — indigenous as cedars to Lebanon, and as closely akin to the commu-

[1] It was not until the present year, 1891, that any information could be obtained relating to this Post, and as so few facts were gathered regarding its earlier existence it was deemed proper to continue the sketch as given down to the present time. Its history belongs to the old town as well as the new.

[2] For the above sketch we are indebted to Mr. Edgar Perry, former editor of the CHRONICLE, who kindly prepared it for us. — EDITOR.

nity it represents as buds to the apple tree. Attleborough offers no exception to this law of social and material evolution.

"Following close upon the opening of the Attleborough Branch railroad, and like that enterprise a resultant of the business prosperity that followed the war, came the ATTLEBOROUGH CHRONICLE. It was the first paper whose form and method, as well as time of appearing, gave any hope of permanence or prosperity. In a History of Attleborough it deserves fitting representation, because its own service to the cause of local history, in catching and holding by the 'art preservative' the events of recent years, has been of the greatest value.

"In November 1871 the idea occurred to Mr. Walter Phillips,[1] who was then employed on a Providence paper, to start a journal of his own, and his attention and choice were naturally directed to Attleborough, the birthplace of his wife,[2] and a large and growing municipality. The latter part of December of that year, Mr. Phillips began a personal canvass of the town, which was continued by himself and others until the first of February 1872, when $1,900 had been paid in advance subscriptions. The first paper was issued February 3rd 1872, the type being set in a little office near Ryder's Hotel, now Park Street Hotel, Attleboro', and the forms were sent to Providence and printed by the Providence Press Company. Pressure of advertising made it necessary to enlarge as early as May of that year.

"On the completion of Kendall's Block, in North Attleboro', the enlarged paper was moved into the rooms in that building now occupied by the engraving office of Lincoln & Ballou and the Union Improvement District Library. A Washington Ward press was added, and upon it Edward Quinn, foreman of the office, 'worked' the forms. July 20th Mr. Quinn also became local editor, and in August the journalistic force was further augmented by the employment of Mr. Eugene K. Dunbar, who came to the work with the collegiate honors of Brown University freshly upon him. August 24th the firm became Phillips & Dunbar. January 18th 1873, Mr. Phillips sold the paper, with the job office connected, to Messrs. Dunbar & Quinn for $5,000. All the printing material had been paid for from the earnings of the first year. July 1st of that year — 1873 — E. K. Dunbar became sole editor and proprietor, and so continued for nearly four years. During all this period he was assisted by Mr. Eliot Hunt as local editor and representative of the paper in the village of Attleboro'. To Mr. Hunt's able and conscientious work much of the success of the paper was owing.

"March 3rd 1877, Mr. Dunbar sold the paper to Mr. F. B. Greene of Providence, son of Prof. Greene of Brown University, Eliot Hunt of Attleboro', and Edwin A. Codding of North Attleboro'. The new firm organized as F. B. Greene & Co., Mr. Greene owning a half, and each of his partners a quarter, interest. Two years later, March 1st 1879, Mr. Hunt purchased the interest of Mr. Greene, and the firm became Eliot Hunt & Co. The business prospered, but at the expense of the health of the senior proprietor, who found it necessary in the spring of 1881 to call editorial assistance. He procured the services of Mr. Edgar Perry, like Mr. Dunbar and Mr. Greene, a graduate of Brown University. Mr. Perry began his duties March 8th 1881, and a year later was formally given sole charge of its editorial and news columns.

"In November, 1881, the CHRONICLE moved into its present convenient and commodious rooms in Anawan Block. December 1st 1882 its form was changed from an eight-column folio to a six-column quarto, printed on tinted paper, and cut and pasted.

"Mr. Hunt's journeys in quest of health proved unsuccessful, and on Sunday morning September 8th 1883, he passed peacefully to rest at his residence in Attleboro'. Mr. Hunt's administrators sold his three fourths interest in the paper, December 8th 1883, to Edgar Perry, who in turn sold a quarter to Mr. William H. Barnes, a former foreman of the office, a newspaper man of experience and at that time proprietor of a job printing office in Odd Fellows Building. The two businesses were consolidated, and the firm organized January 1st 1884, as Perry, Barnes & Co., Mr. Edwin A. Codding still retaining his quarter interest in the concern. April 1st 1884, the CHRONICLE was changed to a semi-weekly, a four-page edition being published every Tuesday. July 13th 1886, Mr. Barnes purchased the interest of Mr. Codding, and became equal partner with Mr. Perry, the firm taking its present style, Perry & Barnes.

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[1] Now general manager of the United Press. [2] Miss Francena Capron, daughter of the late Virgil Capron.

"December 8th 1886, Messrs. Perry & Barnes founded and have since printed at the CHRONICLE office three thriving local journals for neighboring towns, viz.:—'THE REHOBOTH TOWNSMAN,' 'NORTON MIRROR,' and 'CUMBERLAND STANDARD.' They have contributed to Old Colony history, 'HISTORIC REHOBOTH,' 'HISTORY OF THE ATTLEBOROUGH FARMERS AND MECHANICS ASSOCIATION,' and 'HISTORY OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.'

"The ATTLEBOROUGH CHRONICLE has received an unusual share of conscientious, painstaking work and well-directed enterprise. The high esteem in which the citizens of Attleboro' and North Attleboro' regard it, is evidence that the labor of those who have advanced to larger fields of journalism and of him whose day closed so early, has not failed of its reward."[1]

THE ATTLEBORO ADVOCATE.

The success of the above enterprise in the newspaper line very probably marked the way for another of the same nature, and three years after the CHRONICLE started on its prosperous career another town publication made its appearance. The first issue of the ATTLEBORO ADVOCATE bore the date of March 27, 1875, and was published by Mr. T. S. Pratt. On the tenth of the following May Mr. Pratt and Mr. David S. Lowe opened an office in the building now known as Briggs' Hotel, on South Main Street. In the latter part of December of that same year the proprietors removed their business to Dean's Block on Park Street, where it was carried on for nearly four years. On October 1, 1879, Mr. Pratt sold his interest to Mr. Lowe, who soon increased the facilities of the office by the purchase of the large newspaper press on which the ADVOCATE is still (1887) printed. It was at once apparent that steam power was required for the advantageous operation of this press, and a move was therefore made to the upper floor of the building long known as the "Steam Power Company's building," where ample space and the necessary force were obtained for carrying on the printing, while the office still continued in Dean's Block. This arrangement for the presswork proved to be unsatisfactory to the tenants of the floors below on account of the "power of the press" to jar the building and another move therefore became necessary. This was effected on January 1, 1880, the entire business going to County Street.

About a year later, on January 15, 1881, Messrs. E. H. and N. J. Sweet purchased the business. April 5, 1884, the paper was changed from a folio to a quarto and other changes were made at the same time and many improvements added to its makeup. In November, 1884, still another move was made — to the offices still occupied on South Main Street. Job B. Savery was the first editor and agent of the ADVOCATE, and the other editors have been successively Mr. Carpenter, C. M. Barrows, N. A. Mowton, and George Randall. The latter assumed the position in December, 1884, and retained it about four years. He was previously the editor of the PEABODY PRESS.

In November, 1884, as stated, a move was made from County Street to the present quarters on South Main Street, very near its intersection with North Main, County, and Park streets. Since coming here its circulation has steadily increased. The new proprietors being enterprising men, they continually augment their facilities in the job department of the business, adding from time to time both to the variety and quality of the work they produce. At the time of the flood the ADVOCATE had many illustrations of its effects in the various portions of the town, and was the first paper in town to use cuts of that kind to any extent. The edition for the week of the flood was 6,500, and was very large during the entire month.

In the early autumn of 1887 an extremely severe illness sustained by Mr. E. H. Sweet obliged him to relinquish all business. He left town on the seventh of October of that year for southern California, and the conduct of all the affairs of the establishment was assumed

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[1] In May, 1888, Mr. Perry left town, and Mr. Barnes became sole owner of the paper. Mr. Burrill Porter, Jr., assumed the editorship and has retained the position ever since. In November, 1890, the weekly publication was merged into a daily and at once discontinued, the first issue of the *Daily Chronicle* bearing date November 17, 1890. In the autumn of 1889 the business removed its quarters to Elm Street, and in the latter part of 1892 to the building on the same street formerly occupied by Mr. John P. Bonnett. It is conducted under the name of "The Evening Chronicle Co., W. H. Barnes, Manager."

by the partner and brother, Mr. N. J. Sweet. Since then additional space has been taken and the facilities for all kinds of printing have been increased, with the result of a decided growth in the business. The enterprise and energy displayed by these latest partners have reaped an abundant reward in the way of present success and of encouraging promise for the future. The ADVOCATE is popular and has a very large circulation for a town paper. Attleborough may, we think, safely challenge comparison with almost any town in regard to her two newspaper publications, both in character and appearance.[1]

ATTLEBOROUGH BRANCH RAILROAD.

For many years previous and up to 1869-70, the only public mode of conveyance between the North and East villages was by a line of stages. These met certain trains only in the latter village, and year by year were proving to be more and more inadequate to the demands made upon them by the two villages and the interlying portions of the town. The necessity for more frequent and rapid communication in this direction had therefore come to be a widely acknowledged fact. About the beginning of the year 1870, at his request, several gentlemen met at the residence of Handel N. Daggett at the Falls village, to consult upon a plan for starting a railroad and to arrange for taking the initial steps in the enterprise. This meeting was, so far as known, the real beginning of the Branch Road.

The plan matured proved to be an admirable one and it was promptly and ably executed, for in less than a year from the above date the road was completed and in running order. A petition was drawn up, which was signed by Handel N. Daggett, Henry F. Barrows, and Stephen Richardson, who were made the corporators, and presented to the Legislature. This provided for the corporators permission to build the road to unite with the Boston and Providence Railroad and the Taunton Branch Railroad at their junction in Attleborough, with power to lease the same. The capital stock was not to exceed $100,000 and shares were to be $100 each. This petition passed the House March 12, 1870, and the Senate on the 14th, being approved on the 19th of the same month.

The first meeting called by the corporation was held in Mr. Rice's office at North Attleborough on May 14, 1870. Besides the above-named petitioners there were present Dr. J. R. Bronson, J. H. Sturdy, and A. M. Ide. The charter and by-laws were accepted at an adjourned meeting held later in the same day. On June 1 H. F. Barrows was elected president, J. R. Bronson, clerk, and H. N. Daggett, treasurer. The first directors were H. F. Barrows, H. N. Daggett, J. R. Bronson, Stephen Richardson, and A. A. Folsom. On July 29 it was voted to contract with E. G. Perkins and John Lynch to construct the road for $40,000, and it was to be completed by the first of November following. This contract was carried out in the usual way, with some extra charges. In 1871 power was granted to increase the capital to $130,000 and the road was leased to the Boston and Providence Railroad for a term of thirty years from December 31, 1871.

The officers of the first election have continued in their respective positions to the present time, 1887, and there has been but one change in the board of directors, O. M. Draper having been elected in the place of Stephen Richardson, deceased. The stock is held almost entirely in town and by about thirty-five persons, these being chiefly residents of North Attleborough. The road is in good running condition and prosperous financially. The stock has increased fully fifty per cent. in value and therefore pays large dividends on its par value. [The road

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[1] Mr. Randall retired from the paper about August, 1888, and in January following Mr. Mowton again took the editorship. Soon after the departure of Mr. Sweet, Mr. William A. Sturdy, of Chartley, entered the business and in November, 1883, the firm of Sweet & Sturdy was formed. The following year it was decided to establish a daily paper, and the first issue of the same bears the date of September 3, 1889, under the name of the ATTLEBOROUGH DAILY SUN. There were 306 publications during the first year, with an average daily number of 2,205. Various "popularity contests" were started, and were one of the means of maintaining a large daily average for quite a period.

The firm of Sweet & Sturdy dissolved partnership July 1, 1891, Mr. Sweet leaving town at that time. For two months the business was conducted under the name of Willliam A. Sturdy, but at that time, September 1, 1891, Mr. Mowton took control. The business has passed into other hands, and early in 1894 Mr. Mowton left town to take a position on a newspaper in Brockton, this State.

came under the management of the Old Colony Railroad when that company leased the Boston and Providence Railroad, and in turn under that of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, which corporation has leased the entire Old Colony system.]

There are several other organizations of varied nature in town, such as the Attleborough Poultry Club, organized in 1884; the Attleborough Rifle Club; the Columbia Bicycle Club, organized March 10, 1881, etc. There are two courts of the order of Foresters: Court Attleborough, No. 7,260, organized in 1886, A. O. F., and Sarsfield Court, M. C. O. F.; North Attleborough Branch, No. 379, C. K. of A., and Attleborough Chapter No. 28, Golden Rule Alliance. The Norfolk and Bristol Horse Thief Detecting Society has a number of members in town. Of his society J. W. Capron is treasurer, C. S. Williams is agent at Attleborough, and John Bates assistant agent. It is said to have been organized April 18, 1796. The Attleborough Mutual Fire Insurance Company, organized January 1, 1845, still continues its prosperous existence, with J. W. Capron as president, S. W. Carpenter, treasurer, and E. R. Read, secretary. It has two agencies in town. North Attleborough has a Musical and Literary Association, organized in May, 1882, a Germania Singing Society, Frohsinn, incorporated in 1874, and three other musical associations; namely, North Attleborough Cornet Band, organized March 22, 1870; Lamphier's Orchestra, organized in 1880; and the North Attleborough Orchestra. Attleborough has Blackinton's and Stewartson's orchestras, the latter organized in September, 1881. At North Attleborough a newspaper called the ATTLEBOROUGH ADVERTISER is published bi-monthly.

Another organization which has come to be very prominent has recently been formed. About the time of the division of the town a petition signed by about sixty-seven citizens was presented to the Legislature asking permission to form a military company. This was the first among several other petitions presented for the same purpose. It has been granted and the company duly formed, all necessary arrangements made for rooms, uniforms, etc., and the prospects promise a military organization which shall prove a great credit to the new old town of Attleborough (1887).

[For some years there had been a desire manifest to form a military company in town, but there was no opportunity to carry such a desire into effect unless it should become an independent company, until the year 1887, when, under a new law, the military force of the State was increased. In Chapter 411 of the "Acts and Resolves of Massachusetts" for that year, Section 22 reads as follows: "In time of peace, the volunteer militia shall consist of not more than seventy-two companies of infantry, three companies of cavalry, three batteries of light artillery, two corps of cadets, and a signal and an ambulance corps to each brigade." Previous to this time there had been but sixty companies of infantry in the State. George A. Adams, Esq., O. P. Richardson, Jr., and some few others were the prime movers in this matter, and through their efforts the way was paved for active measures to be taken.

A preliminary meeting was held in Engine Hall, October 5, 1887. A temporary organization was effected with G. A. Adams as captain, T. K. Gay as first lieutenant, and O. P. Richardson, Jr., second lieutenant, and sixty-four men were enrolled as members. The necessary petition was framed and sent to the Adjutant-General of the State. On October 27 Adjutant-General Dalton inspected the petitioners at G. A. R. Hall, and the company was notified to meet later on at Park Hall to be mustered into service. This was done November 18, 1887, by Colonel Bancroft of the Fifth Regiment, to which the company had been assigned, and they were thenceforth to be known as Company I, Fifth Regiment, M. V. M. The names of the original members of the company are as follows: —

G. A. Adams,	Charles Allen,	W. B. Allen,
George L. Bullard,	E. H. Briggs,	A. S. Blackinton, Jr.,
Bradford Bullock,	W. B. Bliss,	C. T. Burr,
C. E. Briggs,	H. A. Clark,	J. D. Chilson,
F. B. Eldridge,	A. G. Fuller,	C. F. Forrester,
T. K. Gay,	F. C. Gray,	A. A. Guild,
E. L. Gowen,	L. F. Goff,	W. H. Goff,
O. W. Hawkins,	A. S. Ingraham,	L. B. Kingman,
F. E. Keeler,	O. A. Knight,	D. L. Lowe,

J. H. Lewis,	H. C. Luther,	F. L. Morse,
W. T. Mason,	Eugene Martin,	R. D. Manchester,
Samuel McCartney,	T. T. McAdams,	G. C. Parker,
A. W. Parmenter,	G. A. Pierce,	H. R. Packard,
G. F. Power,	O. P. Richardson,	A. M. Richards,
C. F. Rhodes,	C. E. Richards,	C. A. Richardson,
C. H. Swift,	G. E. Snow,	G. H. Sykes,
C. A. Sturdy,	David Smiley,	F. E. Smith,
F. E. Tripp,	E. A. Taylor,	J. F. Woodard,
D. E. Wilmarth,	G. O. Wilmarth,	M. L. Wood,
	E. F. Young.	

On February 27, 1888, the following were added to the above number by being mustered in:—

F. E. Allen,	O. P. Bliss,	J. E. Pagney,
F. C. Power,	I. W. Smith,	George White.

The first commissioned officers were:—

Captain, William H. Goff.
First Lieutenant, George A. Adams.
Second Lieutenant, O. P. Richardson, Jr.

The first non-commissioned officers appointed by the captain were:—

First Sergeant, Fred. L. Morse.	Corporals.
Second Sergeant, Herbert A. Clark.	Frank E. Keeler,
Third Sergeant, Thomas K. Gay,	George H. Sykes,
Fourth Sergeant, D. E. Wilmarth,	Amos S. Blackinton,
Fifth Sergeant, Clarence E. Richards.	Charles A. Sturdy.

At its first inspection Company I took the highest place, and has stood Number 1 ever since, maintaining the same high standard in all respects and everywhere. Its record in camp has been wellnigh perfect, and it has "never had a man in the guard house." The Fifth Regiment attended the celebration in New York attendant upon the one hundredth anniversary of the inaugural of Washington, and was the recipient of very high compliments from the City of New York. This regiment presented the appearance of regulars and was the "only regiment in the U. S. that marched 24 file front." At the Cotton Centennial celebration in Pawtucket in the autumn of 1890, to which Company I was specially invited, it was the only company in the procession which marched with the "file front of regulars," and with every eye looking straight ahead. Much praise has been bestowed upon this company, and justly, for the men have labored diligently to acquire the military knowledge and technique necessary to place them where they desired to be — in the front ranks of militia companies. The "drill squad" deserves special praise for its attainments in the line of what, for want perhaps of the proper military term, we must call fancy drilling. In the intricate and artistic movements involved in this style of drill the men seem to have reached almost perfection.

A high compliment was bestowed upon Company I, and through it upon the town, by the order which directed that the regimental "Field Day" manœuvres for 1890 should be conducted here. Under the orders issued it was impossible for the citizens of the town to offer the regiment any entertainment in the way of a collation, but what could be done by them was done. A large number offered themselves as soldiers for the day to "act on the defensive." The threatening weather of the eighth of October prevented many from presenting themselves at the appointed rendezvous, but the well-planned defence was carried out nevertheless by the small number who were actively engaged under the command of Major Horton. The attack was directed by Colonel Bancroft and the result was a foregone conclusion, as of course the town had to be taken, but it was some hours before the regiment was victorious. The fighting was in the vicinity of Dodgeville, chiefly to the east of that village, and the limit of the battle was Maple Street; when the regiment should have driven its enemies to the north of that point, the houses south of it being captured, all hostilities were to cease. There were some brilliant

manœuvres, some sharp skirmishes, and a few casualties, or the semblance of such, but fortunately no serious accidents. A small number of prisoners were taken by Company I with great difficulty — especially in the case of E. C. Martin — some wounds (to garments) were sustained, the necessary surgeon being found in a neighboring kitchen, and some refreshments stored for the use of one party fell into the hands of another; notably some kegs were discovered and seized by some scouting party, declared "contraband," and the contents were immediately appropriated by the captors.

It having become known that the State's provision of ammunition would be inadequate for the requirements of Field Day, it was decided that a proper amount should be presented to the regiment. To that end eight gentlemen of the town subscribed twenty-five dollars each, and the supply thus obtained proving to be more than sufficient for the various encounters of the day, after the battle was over the regiment drew up in line on Maple Street and disposed of what was left in an exhibition of brilliant firing. They then marched to the common, where preparations for dress parade were made. A line of march through some of the principal streets of the village was followed, the route ending via South Main Street to the field east of it and south of Maple Street, which had been selected as the place for the final exercises. Halting at the residence of Mr. John C. Cummings, Company I moved forward on to the lawn and received a handsome silk national flag. This was presented by the members of the Ball and Mallet Club, a social organization of ladies, who in this pleasant deed were most heartily and materially assisted by their husbands. The pride in and the appreciation of the company's success thus voiced by a few would no doubt be concurred in by the entire town. Following this presentation was that of a beautiful bouquet by one of our most charming young ladies to Company M, of Hudson, who won this compliment by presenting the best appearance of any company on the march. Dress parade brought the military exercises to a close, and the regiment left town expressing themselves as well pleased with their reception and with the success of the day. The streets from an early hour were filled with an eager, interested crowd of people from everywhere in the entire vicinity, to many of whom it was no doubt in its way the day of their lifetime, and to all of whom it must have been one of unusual gratification. Clouds threatened all day but withheld an outburst, commencing only to let down gentle showers when the parade was nearly over. Fields were wet and streets were muddy, but otherwise little was left to be desired, and the Field Day of October 8, 1890, may be recalled with a good degree of satisfaction.

As has been stated, Company I held the first place in the regiment from the commencement of its career and continued to do so for years. This was largely attributed to the fact that but few changes had occurred in its ranks, and long practice together had enabled the men to reach their high degree of perfection. The term of enlistment for many of the men expired in 1890, and numbers of these did not reënlist, their places being filled by recruits. It was therefore confidently expected, from the very nature of the case, that the annual inspection for that year would show the standard of the company to be lowered. When results showed to the contrary it was a surprise and gratification to every one interested. The new men proved themselves to be truly loyal to the interests of the company. They seemed to consider themselves in large measure responsible for its position the ensuing year, and that they worked with the will which paves the way to success is attested by the fact that Company I still continued to hold its high rank. This statement in no wise derogates the work of the old men, or detracts from its importance; new men and old striving harmoniously together accomplished what neither could have done alone. The anxiously-looked-for inspection occurred February 9, 1891, at Armory Hall, Pierce's Block, the headquarters of the company. Major Oakes was the inspecting officer, and his words to the company on that occasion, though brief, contain a lengthy meaning: "I thought a year ago that the company did finely, but to-night's performance excels that record. I never saw a company in such excellent condition in my life as I find Company I this evening. No company in the State is its superior, and I believe there are few companies in this country so well posted in all the duties of the soldier as Company I of Attleboro." We can easily pardon the "irregularity" displayed by an inspecting officer in speaking to a company of the results of their work, when he uses expressions of such high praise as these, and to citizens of our town.

It may serve to show more clearly the real position the company has attained if a few figures

of this inspection of 1891 are given. The men were examined and marked for sixteen different things. In eleven of these they were perfect, and in the remaining five very nearly so, as they received 694 points out of a possible 700. Considerable interest has been taken in rifle practice, and the results may be seen in the following report of Lieutenant R. B. Edes, the regimental inspector of rifle practice, for work done during the year 1891: "Company I of Attleboro qualified its full complement of 61 men, and made a record for itself which will be hard to equal and difficult to excel. To accomplish this remarkable feat the hardest and most persistent work was required of officers and men, and they are deserving of the highest credit for making such a glorious record, never before equalled by a company of this regiment and seldom by any militia organization. By its brilliant record in marksmanship, Company I has well earned the title of the 'Shooting company' of the 5th regiment. To Capt. Goff and Lieut. Adams the thanks of the department are tendered for the indefatigable efforts put forth by them in placing their command in the proud position it now holds."

The high point reached continues to be maintained, and great credit is due both officers and men for this fact, for no amount of ability to command on the part of the former could have availed without the hearty inclination to obey on the part of the latter. Company I has been unusually fortunate in both these directions. One who has now retired from the company deserves special praise. He was foremost and essential in the work of its organization. His aim was to make the company a credit to itself and to the community, and he was wise and efficient in carrying out all plans tending towards its realization, ably seconding the men in all their advancing efforts, and never satisfied until they were successful in reaching the high standard set. His ability and faithfulness were recognized and appreciated by the entire company, and it was with great reluctance and only after several repetitions that they suffered the resignation of Lieutenant George A. Adams to be accepted.

The officers for 1893 were as follows: —

Captain, William H. Goff.
First Lieutenant, Herbert A. Clark.
Second „ George H. Sykes.

First Sergeant, Walter T. Mason.

Sergeants.

Charles A. Richardson, E. H. Briggs,
Frank C. Gray, David L. Lowe.

Corporals.

A. H. Carpenter, Otis F. Hicks,
Fred. W. Northup, Wilbur S. Stowe,
Fred. Wilmarth. Joseph H. Williams.[1]]

ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAYS.

Some time previous to the division of the town the question as to the advisability of starting an electric street railway company and the practicability of building such a road was mooted. After considerable discussion a number of gentlemen, chiefly of this town, decided to embark in such an enterprise and subscribed the amount of money required by law to start it. They in the early autumn of 1887 organized as the Attleborough, North Attleborough, and Wrentham Street Railway Company, with the following gentlemen as directors: H. G. Bacon, Peter Nerney, C. L. Watson, J. E. Draper, H. M. Daggett, Jr., W. M. Fisher, and F. L. Burden. The projected route was to be from the Park-street railroad crossing in Attleborough through Park and North Main streets in that village; through North Avenue and High Street to North Attleborough; through Elm, Washington, and South streets to School Street, in Plainville, including a distance of six miles. The convenience of such a means of frequent and rapid

[1] A very high compliment has recently been paid to Company I. By order of the Adjutant-General the six Gatling guns belonging to the State militia have been removed from the batteries and placed with infantry companies. One of these was assigned to and has been received by Company I.

conveyance must at once be realized and acknowledged, and, once established, would become more and more an ever-increasing necessity to all within its reach. It is to be hoped that the plans of these gentlemen will meet with a speedy consummation and the electric railway soon be constructed.

[Work was commenced on this railway in July, 1889, and it was practically completed in the following October. During the three days of the Agricultural Fair, which was held about the middle of September that year, cars were run from the village of Attleborough to the grounds with horses, and large numbers of passengers were carried. The road was entirely completed early in the following spring, and electric cars commenced running April 5, 1890. The road is operated by the Thomson-Houston system. The capital was $60,000 and the number of stockholders eighteen. First mortgage bonds were issued to the amount of $50,000. The cost of construction was $69,736.91; the cost of equipment, $45,957.29; the total, $115,694.20. The legal expenses were $3,792.13. During the first six months after the road regularly commenced operations 7,702 trips were made, covering a distance of over 92,400 miles; the number of pay passengers was 461,692, and of free passengers 4,021, making a total of 465,713. The number of regular employees was fourteen. Before the close of the year some changes were made in the board of directors under which the road was constructed and commenced operations, and the stock owned by the gentlemen who left the board was transferred to other hands; but in January, 1891, the officers were as follows: President, Winthrop Coffin, of Boston; Superintendent, George A. Murch, of Attleborough; Treasurer and Clerk, Alfred A. Glasser, of Boston; Directors, Winthrop Coffin and W. B. Ferguson, of Boston; Peter Nerney and Homer M. Daggett, Jr., of Attleborough; J. E. Draper, of North Attleborough; George Demarest, of Plainville; and George W. Mansfield, of Melrose, this State.

This first enterprise proved so successful that soon others of a like nature were contemplated, and two connecting electric roads were projected under the titles of the Interstate and the People's lines. The proposed routes were as follows: the Interstate from the Wamsutta House corner in North Attleborough, through Washington Street south to a point near the residence of the late George B. Richards, thence over the "Old Post Road" through the villages of West and South Attleborough to Barrows' Tavern, thence over Washington Street—or the turnpike—again to Pawtucket, returning over Central Avenue through Seekonk or over the "Greate Plaine" to Hebronville; the People's from Park-street railroad crossing (east side) through Union or Pine Street, crossing to South Main and through Dodgeville and Hebronville, meeting the Interstate at that place. The latter never matured, and the entire road was constructed by the Interstate Company. The line followed was through Pine and Orange streets to South Main and thence through the two villages named to Pawtucket.

Work on the Interstate line was commenced in April, 1891, and was so far completed as to be open for traffic on July 17, 1892, and through to Pawtucket on the 23d. Two cars were run from North Attleborough to Oldtown (West Attleborough) on August 13, 1892. The promotion of this enterprise was watched with great interest by the people of this village and South Attleborough, and the appearance of the first cars over the road was the signal for a public demonstration after the true American fashion—bell-ringing, fireworks, etc. The portion of the route toward Attleborough was ready for traffic October 15, 1892, and on November 1 following the company was running one car at the other end, from Attleborough to Hebronville; and on December 4 cars commenced running between those two villages, connecting with cars from Pawtucket. For some time a change of cars at Hebronville was necessary, as the Interstate could not cross the Old Colony line at grade. Later that grade-crossing was abolished and the old town road closed at that point, the depot at Hebronville. A bridge was built over the railroad tracks a number of rods to the east and the town road changed, as was necessary. Over this road the Interstate tracks were laid and passengers enabled to ride through to Pawtucket without change.

The capital stock of this corporation is $362,500, a little more than half of which is owned in Attleborough and North Attleborough. The officers first elected were: President, H. M. Daggett, Jr., Attleborough; Treasurer, W. N. Otis, Providence; Clerk, George E. Webster, East Providence; Directors, H. M. Daggett, Jr., W. N. Otis, H. W. Harvey, East Providence; William A. Walton, Providence; W. H. Haskell, Pawtucket; Peter Nerney, Attleborough; C. T. Guild, North Attleborough; George Demarest, Wrentham, and E. C. Dubois, East

Providence. These are the same at the present time — December, 1893, — with the exception of Mr. Demarest. The officers of the Attleborough, North Attleborough & Wrentham Street Railway Company are the same as above, with the exception of C. T. Guild, who is its clerk. The superintendent of the system is Eli W. Adams. On July 1, 1893, the Interstate Street Railway Company acquired all the rights, franchises, and property of the Attleborough, North Attleborough & Wrentham Street Railway Company, and since that time the roads have been run as one system. The Interstate Company has also purchased a large per cent. of the capital stock of the North Attleborough Steam and Electric Company, which was incorporated April 2, 1886. Most of its officers are gentlemen connected with the purchasing company.

The following words are those of one who has been interested in this enterprise from the outset. They show a little of what has already been done and of what it is hoped may soon be accomplished: —

"The United Electric Traction Co. of New Jersey, who own the Union R. R. Co. and the Pawtucket St. Ry. Co., have made overtures to buy the control of the Interstate Co. but the trade has not been consummated. The relations between the two roads undoubtedly will be harmonious, and persons can at present ride on the Electric Cars from Plainville in the Town of Wrentham to Bullock's Point in the Town of East Prov. (24 miles) or from Attleboro to Roger Williams Park or Pawtuxet. Through the extension of the Electric Lines by the United Traction Co. it is supposed that by Oct. '94, persons can ride from Wrentham to Phœnix by Electric cars. Franchises have also been granted for a line from Pawtucket to Woonsocket, which may be built during the next year. The number of passengers carried from Sept. 30th, '92 to Sept. 30th, '93 was 1,710,135.

"During the Summer of '93 much improvement has been shown in real estate along the line of the Electric Road, one new house having been built in Oldtown, the first for 30 years. A Post Office has been established there, and along a portion of the road a tract of land has been laid out into house lots and 43 lots have been sold to persons who intend building. In So. Attleboro there has been much improvement and 7 new houses have been erected, and a large addition to Coupe's Tannery nearly doubling its capacity has been erected. The Town has constructed water works at this place and new pipes have been laid through the village. A park has been laid out at Walnut Grove which is on high ground and commands an extensive view. It is a very lovely spot and much appreciated by the persons who can reach it by the Electric cars on the Line from Attleboro to Pawtucket. The same can be said as to the improvement of real estate in Attleboro along the line of the Road. There have been erected this year 14 dwelling houses, a large farm has been laid out into house lots and streets, and the widening of streets has begun. In the Town of Seekonk through which we run for about one mile, there have been 3 new houses built and much improvement in the value of land. In the City of Pawtucket between Cottage St. and Central Ave. in the tract contiguous to our Line there have been erected more than 70 dwelling houses and 2 large manufactories established along the line, and the price of real estate is much improved.

"The whole idea of the projectors has not been carried out. It was anticipated that they would have a line of their own in to Prov. and that through cars could be run, and also that express cars could be attached to the passenger cars thus doing an express business which would greatly add to the facilities for doing business in the Towns of Attleboro, No. Attleboro and Plainville which are now served only by one Co. It is hoped that in the near future the express business can be commenced by making an arrangement with the Union Line from Pawtucket to Providence.

"The total investment for the whole enterprise up to date is about $800,000.00." (December, 1893.)

[The early history of this great enterprise is like that of many another of a similar nature, and its experiences much the same. Opposition, criticism, hindrances, and delays without number had to be met and overcome, but the figures given show that the public — the great arbiter — at once set its seal of approval upon the scheme, and in no uncertain manner, by its daily, general use of the line. Much had been accomplished toward placing the undertaking upon a firm basis, and matters looked promising for permanent success, when in the autumn of 1893 such serious financial troubles overtook the company as to necessitate the appointment of a receiver. Added to this misfortune, on the night of January 1, 1894, the power-house — the

old Farmers' mill — was partially destroyed by fire, the valuable machinery being considerably injured. Efforts were immediately made to temporarily obtain power elsewhere, but unsuccessfully, and the financial conditions of both the power and railway companies have caused complications which could not be adjusted without delay. Meanwhile, being deprived for a time of this very convenient and inexpensive means of transportation, people begin to fully realize what an accommodation it was and how much dependence had been placed upon it.

The idea of this scheme of electric railways in our vicinity originated with Mr. Homer M. Daggett, Jr., and he has gone steadily and unflinchingly on, pushing forward as far as possible toward completion the plans formed by himself and others, in the face of obstacles which would have daunted any man with one jot less of perseverance, determination, untiring energy, and active resource than himself. There can be but one wish expressed — that of ultimate success to a project which promises as this does so much real benefit to both the Attleboroughs, and included in that success prosperity both to the originator and all others among our citizens who have done all they could with name and money to advance its interests.

The property of the power company has been purchased by Mr. W. H. Haskell, of Pawtucket, and the station is in process of reconstruction. A day for the sale of the electric road has been several times appointed, and several times postponed, and at the present writing the sale has not been consummated — July 2, 1894.] [The station has been completed, and at a special meeting the town of Attleborough voted nearly $5,000 for street lights for the coming year. The affairs of the electric road are as yet unchanged, September 20, 1894.]

CHAPTER XV.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

PEREZ BRADFORD was a great-grandson of Governor Bradford. In his father's family there were nine sons, and in the year 1720 these nine brothers, "all men of high personal character," were, with their families, living in the town of Kingston, Mass. One of these, Major William Bradford, was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch, and Lieutenant Samuel Bradford was his father. His mother was Hannah Rogers, daughter of John Rogers, of Duxbury, this State, in which place Mr. Bradford had settled. Mr. Rogers was at one time a resident of Barrington, R. I., Mount Hope Neck. Hannah Rogers Bradford was great-granddaughter of the famous John Alden who tried to woo the Puritan maiden Priscilla for his friend, the doughty Miles Standish, and to his surprise — but evident satisfaction — won her for himself.

Perez Bradford was third in a family of seven children and was born in Duxbury in 1694. He graduated at Harvard College in 1713. About 1717 he was a resident of Kingston and probably lived upon his grandfather's estate there. Nothing appears to be known of his wife beyond her name, which was Abigail Balch. In 1732 the records show that he was living in Milton, for at that time he and two cousins became administrators of the estate of his grandfather, John Rogers. He was there also a year later, for on July 16, 1733, his mother, "Hannah Bradford, a widow, of Duxbury, in consideration of £500, conveyed to him one hundred and ten acres of land in Swansea." This (Barrington) was formerly the homestead of his maternal grandfather. September 6, 1745, Mr. Bradford was living on this homestead in Swansea, for at that time he bought the homestead of Benjamin Wise in this town — containing seventy acres and an additional tract of fifty acres — for the sum of £1,300.

Immediately after this he removed to this town and in the following spring was chosen a representative to the General Court. On the meeting of the Legislature he was elected one of the Council and took his seat as a member the last Wednesday of May, 1746. He died on the nineteenth day of the following June.

Mr. Bradford had eight children, four sons and four daughters. One of these daughters, Hannah, married Jabez Gay, a man prominent in the town, April 30, 1746.

In the old burying ground at West Attleborough are two gravestones, inscribed as follows: —

"In memory of Hon. Perez Bradford, who departed this life on ye 19th day of June, 1746, in ye 52 year of his age."

"In memory of Mrs. Abigail Bradford, widow and relict of ye late Hon. Perez Bradford, Esq., who departed this life ye 15th of November, 1746, in ye 52 year of her age."

Rev. Naphtali Daggett, D.D., President of Yale College, was the son of Ebenezer Daggett and Mary, his wife (daughter of Penticost Blackinton), and was born in Attleborough, at the old residence of the late Harvey M. Daggett, September 8, 1727. He was the second son among eight children. His father dying while he was yet young, he was left under the direction of a mother who was, however, in every respect peculiarly qualified to discharge the duties which devolved upon her. He soon after commenced studies preparatory to college. When he was quite a youth the Rev. Solomon Read, of Bridgewater, — then a licentiate, but afterwards a settled minister in Framingham and Middleborough, — became acquainted with him and formed a high opinion of his talents and promise. He took Mr. Daggett and two other youths of the vicinity as pupils and received them for a time into his own family, without charge, with a view of aiding them to obtain a liberal education for the purpose of entering the ministry. The following record tends to prove that the idea of studying for the ministry was probably impressed upon Mr. Daggett's mind at an early age: "In the revival of 1740, two hundred persons were added to his [Habijah Weld's] church, among them Naphtali Daggett." He was then thirteen years old. He was for a time, by his patron's assistance, under the tuition of the distinguished Dr. Forbes, of Raynham; then under that of Mr. (afterwards the Rev. Dr.) James Coggeswell, who was teaching a school in Plainfield, Conn. Remaining with him a year and a half, he then removed to Abington, Mr. Read's native place, where he continued to prosecute his studies under his first tutor's directions.

In the summer of 1744 Mr. Read took this pupil, with others, to Cambridge with a view to offer them for admission to Harvard College, but some unexpected difficulties having arisen in regard to their being admitted to an examination — difficulties, it would seem, connected with the theological controversies of the day and which Mr. Read's efforts, seconded by those of the Rev. Mr. Weld, of this town, could not overcome — he took young Daggett and one other of his pupils to New Haven and entered them in Yale College in the autumn of the same year, 1744. Mr. Daggett graduated in 1748, at the age of twenty-one. He was distinguished during his college life for industry and close application and thorough scholarship.[1] His college diary indicates extensive readings and the examination of philosophical works.

[1] The old Latin Lexicon used by Dr. Daggett while a student, and which became the property of Hon. John Daggett (the author of this book), was presented by him before his death to the Yale College Library. — Editor.

He was settled as minister at Smithtown, Long Island, and was ordained over the church there September 18, 1751, as is shown by a letter to his brother, Colonel John Daggett, dated November 18, 1751. During his residence there, on December 19, 1753, he was married to Sarah Smith, daughter of the third Richard Smith, by Rev. Ebenezer Prime. She was born September 16 (O. S.), 1728, and died at New Haven, March 25, 1772, aged forty-three years and six months.

In his memorandum, which came into the possession of the author of this work, Mr. Daggett says that he was dismissed from his pastoral charge at Smithtown, November 6, 1755, for the purpose of removing to New Haven. In September, 1755, he had been elected the first Professor of Divinity in Yale College, the professorship being denominated the "Livingston Professorship of Divinity." He accepted the appointment, removed to New Haven, and was inducted into office on the fourth of March following, 1756.[1] This office he held during the remainder of his life.

The president of the college, Rev. Thomas Clap, resigned September 10, 1766. The corporation made choice of Rev. James Lockwood as his successor, but he declined to accept the office, and they "proceeded at once to elect the Professor of Divinity, Rev. Naphtali Daggett, D.D., President *pro tempore*, with the understanding, however, that he was to continue to discharge the duties of his professorship." During his administration of eleven years, notwithstanding the disadvantages of the times — for they were the years of turbulence and political excitement preceding the Revolutionary War — the college was eminently prosperous and successful. The number of students was larger than before, especially during the later years of his administration, when it is said many young men were sent to college by their parents to avoid their being drafted into the army. The prosperity of the college at this time, however, was largely due to the fact "that the corporation were able to secure a succession of tutors of unusual ability." At that early date there were few professors and the instruction was given chiefly by "tutors as they were then for the most part called." Among these, under Dr. Daggett, were such men as the following: Hon. Stephen Mix Mitchell, subsequently Judge of the Superior Court; Rev. Dr. Wales, the successor of Dr. Daggett in the professorship of divinity; Hon. John Trumbull, author of "McFingal";

[1] The foundation of this professorship was laid in 1746, by a donation from the Hon. Philip Livingston, of New York; and having received a considerable addition by another donation, from Mr. Gershom Clark, of Lebanon, with some appropriations by the college, it afforded a sufficient salary for the support of such an office, which was accordingly established in 1755. A house for the use of the incumbent was erected by subscription and finished in 1758. It was like the ordinary New England house of its day, nearly square, two stories high, with a garret above, the front door in the centre opening into a little entry and behind that the great chimney occupying a large space in the middle of the house. Its outside looked very much like an old house, with the date of its erection over the door, still standing on the north side of New Haven Green on Elm Street. It had no L. It stood on the site of the present Medical College and remained for fully a century, being finally demolished about 1859 to give space for the erection of a wing to the college building. It was given to Yale College by Dr. Daggett.

Rev. Dr. Dwight, afterwards president of the college; Rev. Dr. J. Buckminster, of Portsmouth, N. H.; Rev. Dr. Strong, of Hartford, Conn.; and Hon. John Davenport, for eighteen or twenty years a member of Congress from Connecticut. There was a large number of men connected with Yale College during those years while Dr. Daggett held office, who became very eminent in after years as professors, writers, jurists, foreign ministers, members of Congress, etc., and among these famous graduates, many of whom became tutors, may be mentioned Rev. Joseph Howe, Joel Barlow, another of the "Columbiad"; Oliver Wolcott, Governor of Connecticut; Nathaniel Chipman, Chauncey Goodrich, David Humphrey, Abraham Baldwin, Noah Webster, the lexicographer, and James A. Hillhouse, who was tutor, treasurer of the college for fifty years, and the man to whom the city of New Haven is so largely indebted for one of its chiefest attractions, those noble trees which have gained for it the name of the "City of Elms."

Dr. Daggett presided over the university about eleven years, and held the office of professor of divinity twenty-five years. Possessed of a strong, clear, and comprehensive mind, he applied himself with assiduity and success to the various branches of knowledge, particularly to the learned languages and divinity. Dr. Holmes, in his life of Dr. Stiles, says of him: "He was a good classical scholar, well versed in moral philosophy, and a learned divine." Clearness of understanding and accuracy of thought were characteristic of his mind. He received the honorary degree of D.D. from Yale College in 1771, that of S.T.D. from Harvard College, and in 1774 the same degree from Nassau College, Princeton, N. J.

After the breaking out of hostilities the college suffered in various ways. Many of the students left their studies to take up the use of arms, and so troublous were the times in New Haven it became impossible to procure regular food for those who remained. In the spring of 1777 the classes were separated, the senior class dismissed without any public examination or exhibition, and the three lower classes were sent each to some interior town with its respective tutors, where they could pursue their studies. At this time, April 1, 1777, Dr. Daggett resigned his presidency, but as professor of divinity was "to visit the different classes as often as he could with convenience."[1] On his resignation the corporation "returned him thanks for all his painful and faithful services for the advantage of the College, wishing him a happy repose, future usefulness in life, and an abundant reward in the world above." The learned Dr. Stiles was his successor.

During the barbarous attack on New Haven by the British army in July, 1779, he took an active part in the defence of the country, and was distin-

[1] For some of the facts in this sketch of President Daggett the Editor is indebted to a publication entitled a "Sketch of the History of Yale College," edited by Mr. William Kingsley, editor and proprietor of the "New Englander." The book had not been seen by the author.

guished for his resolution and intrepidity. He was taken prisoner and came near losing his life. He had made himself obnoxious by his open and active opposition to the British cause. He had often inculcated upon the students under his charge, in the pulpit and in the lecture-room, the duty of resistance to British oppression. He had therefore incurred the special displeasure of the invaders. He had openly preached and prayed against the success of their cause. He knew no difference between preaching and practising, and when the crisis came he carried his principles into action. He shouldered his musket and went into the field with the rest to repel the invaders, and when taken prisoner the enemy offered him every indignity in their power. His clerical character was in their eyes no reason for exemption from the most outrageous abuse.

The following extracts are from an account of his actions during this attack on New Haven by the British, under General Tryon, given by Hon. Elizur Goodrich, LL.D., formerly professor of law in Yale College. It was furnished to the *Attleborough Weekly Bulletin* a number of years ago by Professor Goodrich's son, Mr. Chauncey A. Goodrich. Mr. Goodrich says: —

"On the evening of the 4th of July, 1779, a force of twenty-five hundred men, which had previously sailed from New York, landed on the south part of West Haven, a parish of New Haven, about five miles from the center of the town. College was of course broken up, and the students, with many of the inhabitants, prepared to flee on the morrow into the neighboring country. To give more time for preparation, and especially for the removal of goods, a volunteer company of about a hundred young men was formed, not with the expectation of making any serious stand against such a force, but simply of retarding, or diverting its march. In common with others of the students, I was one of the number, and I well remember the surprise we felt the next morning, July 5th, as we were marching over West Bridge towards the enemy, to see Dr. Daggett riding furiously by us on his old black mare, with his long fowling-piece in his hand, ready for action. We knew the old gentleman had studied the matter thoroughly, and satisfied his own mind as to the right and propriety of fighting it out, but we were not quite prepared to see him come forth in so gallant a style to carry his principles into practice. Giving him a hearty cheer as he passed, we turned down towards West Haven, while he ascended a little to the West, and took his station in a copse of wood, to reconnoiter, and bide his time."

This company of young men met a small party of the enemy, fired upon and chased them, but, suddenly finding themselves almost surrounded by the full force of the enemy, were obliged to turn and run for their lives. Dr. Daggett, however, as the story goes, stood his ground manfully, and as the columns of the British passed the little hill where he stood under cover of the bushes he used his fowling-piece with excellent effect. Mr. Goodrich continues: "A detachment was sent to look into the matter and the commanding

officer coming suddenly, to his great surprise, on a single individual in a black coat blazing away in this style, cried out, 'What are you doing there, you old fool, firing on his Majesty's troops?' 'Exercising the rights of war,' said the old gentleman. The very audacity of the reply, and the mixture of drollery it contained, seemed to amuse the officer. 'If I let you go this time, you rascal,' said he, 'will you ever fire again on the troops of his Majesty?' 'Nothing more likely,' said the old gentleman in his dry way. On the officer asking their prisoner who he was, he replied, 'I am Naphtali Daggett, of Yale College. I demand of you to release me.' 'But we understand you have been in the habit of praying against our cause.' 'Yes, and I never made more sincere prayers in my life.' Though greatly enraged the soldiers forbore to put a bullet through him but dragged him to the head of their column, and bade him lead the way into town. The West bridge had been taken down to prevent the entrance of the enemy by that road, and they were obliged to take a roundabout course, a distance of at least five miles. Thus in the fierce heat of an unusually hot July day they drove their prisoner on, 'pricking him forward with their bayonets when his strength failed, and when he was ready to sink to the ground from utter exhaustion.'"

He was taken as far as the green, where he was recognized by a friend — though it is said he was at first left for dead on the ground. One account adds that he was conveyed to the house of a lady who knew him, and gave him shelter, although herself a loyalist, and he was saved by her intrepidity. After the British had retired, an officer and a file of soldiers were sent back to convey him a prisoner on board their transports. They came to the house and inquired for him, and were answered by the lady (who appeared at the door, and resolutely refused to admit them) that he was so badly wounded it would be impossible to convey him on board alive. "My orders," said the officer, "are positive to take him with me." "But you would not surely carry away a dying man; he is now in the agonies of death." After repeated demands and refusals, the officer finally determined to return and report the case to his superior, and ask for further orders. But he never came back after his prisoner.

For some time Dr. Daggett's life was in danger, but his health was at length partially restored, so that he was able to preach regularly in the chapel during the following year. He never, however, fully recovered from the effects of his brutal treatment, but survived only a little more than a year, and died in consequence of it and the wounds he had received, on November 25, 1780, at the age of fifty-three.[1]

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[1] During the presidency of Dr. Daggett there were some marked changes in the college; the result doubtless of the thoroughly democratic tendencies of the times, a result which may certainly be attributed in some measure to his life and teachings. During this time a new debating society was formed among the students, called "United Brothers." It adopted a democratic constitution and took the bold step of admitting to its ranks underclassmen. This at once brought it into favor, and

Rev. Payson Williston says of him: "President Daggett was one of my father's intimate friends. His social qualities (altogether) were such as to render him more than ordinarily attractive. The college was eminently prosperous under his presidency."

The following extract is from the communication of Hon. Elizur Goodrich, before quoted: "In person Dr. Daggett was of about the middle height, strong framed, inclining to be corpulent, slow in his gait, and somewhat clumsy in his movements. There was a story among the students which illustrates a prominent characteristic of the clergy of that day — I mean a love of drollery and of keen retort. 'Good morning, Mr. President *pro tempore*,' said one of his clerical brethren on some public occasion, bowing very profoundly, and laying a marked emphasis on the closing words of his title. 'Did you ever hear of a President *pro æternitate?*' said the old gentleman in reply, drawing himself up with an amused air of stateliness, and turning the laugh of the whole company on his assailant.

"His religious system, I suppose, was the old New England Theology, unadulterated and unmodified. As a preacher he was not particularly animated, but his sermons were full of well-digested, weighty thought, clearly expressed, and were always written out with great care. He was considered a very well read and able theologian; indeed that was sufficiently indicated by his occupying the chair of Theological Professor. He preached his entire system regularly, once in four years, with, I believe, scarcely any variation. I recollect to have heard the late Dr. Lyman, of Hartford, who sat under President Daggett's ministry during his college course, express a high estimate of him as a preacher; and he remarks that he had a sermon on the text — 'Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this thing,' etc., and when the fourth year came round, he always said, 'And the dog did it.' There were a number of President Daggett's sermons published, and there are others remaining in manuscript, which show that he possessed much more than ordinary ability. He kept remarkably aloof from the religious controversies of his time, and contented himself to preach what he believed to be the truth, without combating what he regarded as the erroneous speculations of others." The number of his written sermons was about five hundred. Among those he published was one delivered at the ordination of Rev. Ebenezer Baldwin,

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it became for a time quite a successful rival of the older and more conservative society "Linonia." A progressive step was also taken by the corporation, who, at the request of the legislature, voted to change the printing of the college laws, etc., from Latin into English. In 1768 the change was made to the present style of printing students' names in the catalogues in alphabetical order. Up to that time the custom had obtained of printing them according to the rank in society that their fathers were supposed to possess, and it was considered a very severe punishment for a name to be placed lower than the social rank demanded. Position would therefore be considered worthy of great emulation, and an amusing anecdote is told of one student whose father was a shoemaker, who, when he was questioned as to his father's position in life, replied that he "*was on the bench*," thereby gaining for himself a high place in the catalogue.

1770, another at the ordination of Rev. J. Howe, 1773, and a funeral sermon on the death of Job Lane, a tutor in college, 1768.

He published the "Funeral Sermon on the Death of Rev. Thomas Clap,[1] President of Yale College," delivered in the college chapel, January 8, 1769, the day after his death. It is a discourse which is becoming rare, and will probably be soon lost, and an extract relating to the character and services of President Clap is made, as a specimen of the writing of that age, and the style of its author: —

His genius was naturally turned for mathematical knowledge, in which he had made great proficiency, in the several branches of that most entertaining and useful science. He had such a thorough knowledge of natural philosophy and astronomy that he was probably equal to almost any man upon the continent. He delighted to survey the heavens, and travel among the stars, and calculate their wonderfully regular motions, devoutly entertained with the wonderfully surprising displays of the power and wisdom of the great Creator appearing therein. He was a rare pattern of industry, and a perfect master in the art of redeeming time, any moment of which he thought too valuable to be lost. By this happy art, though he was not constitutionally of the most quick, and active make, he would really dispatch well, business sufficient for two or three men. It is almost incredible that he should be able to pay a proper attention to, and go through with such a multiplicity of different and arduous services at the same time. But it was a governing maxim with him, to mind his own business, and lose no time.

These solid buildings are witnesses of his faithful attention to the interests of the College, while hundreds now living, who had the happiness to be his pupils, are witnesses to his superior talents, and uncommon faithfulness as an instructor. He never undertook any trust to which he was not eminently faithful; nor sustained any relation, whether of a husband, a parent, or a friend, but what he was conscientious and punctual in discharging the duties thereof.

He was naturally steady in his temper; grave and judicious; deliberate and sure in planning his schemes; unwearied and immovably resolute in the execution of them. He was remarkable for the entire command he had of his passions; patient under abuses; having learnt to bear reproach and reviling without reviling again; a perfect economist in his affairs; frugal without a mean parsimony, and liberal without profuseness; an enemy to all vain show and useless ceremonies, so that he could hardly descend to so much of this kind, as his public station might seem to require. His great soul was all intent upon the solid and useful. He was kind and benevolent, exhibiting the most substantial proofs of love, though without those tender overflowings of affection, which are common in persons of a more soft and volatile constitution. He thought, he acted, he lived, very uniformly and by rule. He led a life of strict, exemplary piety, not flighty in the emotions of his zeal, but uniformly serious, constantly and steadily devoted to God. Having been long favored with a close connection, and intimate acquaintance with him, I may be allowed to bear testimony to the deep, habitual sense of eternal things, which he appeared to maintain upon his mind, and the steady regard he paid to the great concerns of religion. And as he lived, so he died. He gave the natural symptoms of strong bodily pain through the night preceding his dissolution, and soon after the natural sun had risen upon our hemisphere, this bright luminary of our church and Republic of Literature, who had much resembled the sun in the steadiness of his course, and in diffusing the light of knowledge around him, was extinguished by having his eyes closed in the slumbers of death, — and without a groan or struggle he fell asleep.

Dr. Daggett closed with an address to the students: —

My dear pupils, who are students in the college, I am sure your hearts cannot be unaffected with this providence. See, there lies a breathless corpse, that venerable person who but lately

[1] President Clap, as well as the preacher, was a native of the Old Colony. He was born in Scituate, June 20, 1703, and was the son of Mr. Stephen and Mrs. Temperance Clap, of that town.

took a parental care of you. His faithfulness and unwearied diligence in the discharge of his duty towards you, are well known to you all. I am witness to the deep concern for your welfare, which lay with pressing weight upon his mind, especially for the everlasting welfare of your immortal souls. View him, then, as your deceased father, with all those emotions of dutiful, filial respect, which become bereaved children. Remember how often, how faithfully, with what seriousness and solemnity, he very lately used to instruct, counsel, and admonish you as children, fervently praying with and for you in this very place. Let his death serve to revive and rivet them in your memory, and enforce them on your consciences, that they may be the means of making you wise to salvation.

Although he is dead, he still speaks loudly to you. Pay, then, a practical regard to the good and serious counsels which he hath so often given you; devote yourselves to God, mind religion, and give all diligence to secure the salvation of your souls. Otherwise, that very person will rise up in the Day of Judgment, and testify against you that ye set at naught all the counsels of wisdom, "and would none of her reproofs."

May we all, in this instance, mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, and see how his end is peace, and may we all be quickened by the consideration, to secure a due preparation for death, by discharging faithfully the work and duty of life, that when the shadows of that long night, which is hastening towards us, shall be spread over us, we may quietly fall asleep with Jesus, and be remembered in the resurrection of the just.

Dr. Daggett died, as before stated, November 25, 1780. "His funeral was attended November 27, 1780, with every demonstration of respect. President Stiles preached on the occasion, and a Latin funeral oration was delivered by Mr. John Barnett, a Junior Bachelor, and a resident graduate."

It is a somewhat remarkable circumstance that Dr. Daggett and Dr. Stiles each delivered a funeral sermon on his immediate predecessor. Dr. Daggett is buried in the old cemetery at New Haven, though his remains have been removed, with those of others, from their first burial place, which was on the green on the site of Center Church. The following inscription is on his gravestone: —

Rev. Naphtali Daggett, D.D.
born at Attleborough, Mass. Sept. 8th, 1727,
died at New Haven, Nov. 25th, 1780.
Pastor of the church at Smithtown, L. I.
1751 to 1755
Professor of Divinity in Yale College, 1755
to his death.
President, 1766 to 1777.

Dr. Daggett left several children. A daughter Mary married a Mr. Platt and lived in Peru, Clinton County, New York. Another daughter, named Sally, was single at the time of his death, as is shown by a letter addressed to her at Wethersfield by President Ezra Stiles, announcing her father's death.

One of his sons was Henry, who served as a captain in the Revolutionary War. He was born in New Haven, February 27, 1758, and graduated at Yale College in 1775. For many years after leaving the army he was a merchant in his native city. He died July 20, 1843, aged eighty-five. His wife was Anna, daughter of Deacon Stephen Ball. She died in 1844 at the age of eighty. They had at least four children — Mary, Ebenezer, Henry,

Grace. Captain Henry Daggett was esteemed and beloved for his uprightness and worth and died honored and lamented.

Grace A. Daggett, the daughter of Captain Daggett, died in New Haven within a few years, having reached the remarkable age of ninety-two. From her age and associations she was "a connecting link, between the Revolutionary period and our own time." Miss Daggett was living at the time of the centennial celebration of that attack on New Haven in which her grandfather, Dr. Daggett, took such an active part, and notwithstanding her extreme age, took a great interest in the occasion. She was at the time the guest of "Landlord Mosely of the New Haven House" and viewed the procession from its balcony. She was serenaded "by the Howe band" and received much marked attention during the day.

At the time of her death she had been a member of Center Church for sixty-nine years. It is said she "was a woman of uncommon good sense, and strong force of character."

Colonel John Daggett, an elder brother of the preceding, born September 2, 1724, was one of the principal public characters and leading men of the town, especially during the trying period of the Revolution. He and Colonel May were the two on whom the town placed the utmost reliance. He was possessed of a strong and sound mind and was marked by a resolute and decided character. He was a Puritan in the plainness and simplicity of his manners and was a firm friend to the civil institutions and republican customs of New England.

In 1768 he was chosen to represent the town at the General Court, and for a long succession of years — eight consecutively — he was reëlected a member of the Legislature. He was commissioned one of his majesty's justices of the peace under the Provincial Government before the Revolution. He took an early and decided stand with many other patriotic citizens of this town in the commencement of those proceedings which produced the Revolution. He was a member of the Provincial Congress which assembled at Cambridge September 1, 1779, for the purpose of forming a constitution, being one of the three men from this town who were members of that convention which formed the present Constitution of Massachusetts. In 1780 he for the ninth time represented the town at the General Court. He was generally called to serve on the most important committees which were raised in town, meeting to consider the many difficult subjects which were then brought before the people during and subsequent to the Revolution.

His first military commission was conferred upon him in 1758, when he became ensign in the second militia company in Attleborough, and ten years later he became captain by promotion. This company then belonged to the Third Regiment, of Bristol County; but about the time the War of the Revolution commenced the regiment was divided and the companies from the northern towns of the county were formed anew and constituted the

Fourth Regiment, of which he was commissioned colonel. This was in February, 1776. It was about a year previous to this time that Colonel Daggett had undertaken the expedition to Assonet for the purpose of breaking up a Royalist combination which had stored ammunition in that place. He and his comrades thus had the honor of being the first actors in the first scene of the great Revolutionary drama. Colonel Daggett commanded the regiment from the county of Bristol both in Spencer's and Sullivan's expeditions on Rhode Island in 1777 and 1779.

At home he was extensively employed as a surveyor and was engaged in various other kinds of public business, such as the ordinary transactions of life require between citizens. His first wife was Mercy Shepard, daughter of John Shepard, the centenarian. They had nine children — John, Jr., Joab, Jesse, Bathsheba, Mercy, Ebenezer, Levi, Hannah, and Huldah. She died February 1, 1783, and on August 5, 1784, Colonel Daggett married Mary Tucker, of Norton. He died, universally respected, January 20, 1803, at the age of seventy-nine.

In the *Providence Gazette* bearing date February 5, 1803, is the following notice of him: "He bore a long indisposition with Christian fortitude, and died in the hope of a blessed immortality. He was a very respectable citizen, and highly useful in society; he served his town for many years as a representative to the General Court; he commanded a regiment of militia during the Revolutionary war, and sustained the office of a justice of the peace for many years to general satisfaction; he supported an unblemished character through life, and has furnished an example worthy of imitation."

Dr. Ebenezer Daggett, a third brother, was a respectable physician who settled in Walpole and later in Wrentham village, where he acquired an extensive practice. May 25, 1758, he married Susannah Metcalf, daughter of Timothy Metcalf, Esq., of Wrentham, by whom he had several children. The following is the inscription on his gravestone: —

Doct. Ebenezer Daggett,
who died Feb. 26th, 1782,
in the 50th year of his age.

In the cold mansions of the silent tomb
How still the solitude! how deep the gloom!
Here sleeps the dust unconscious, close confined;
But far, far distant dwells the immortal mind.

His son, Rev. Herman Daggett, graduated at Brown University in 1788 and pursued his professional studies with Dr. Emmons, of Franklin. He was settled for some years in the ministry on Long Island and in several places. He preached also in New York State. He was also a teacher. He finally went to Connecticut, where he taught for some years and in 1818 became the first principal of the Foreign Mission School established in Cornwall by the American Board.

Some writer says: "Mr. Daggett was a man of sterling talents, respectable acquirements, and peculiar excellence of character. To all his other acquirements as a scholar, he added singular neatness of person, and an exact, systematic arrangement of all his various duties. He was remarkably dignified in his manners, and circumspect in his deportment." He is several times mentioned by Dr. Lyman Beecher in his autobiography, once as follows: "Then there was Herman Daggett, also, a mild, intellectual man, whose sermons were all fitted for the press every dot. He was cheerful, but never known to smile, so it was said. It was also remarked of him, that he was just fit to preach to ministers." He died in 1832.

Hon. David Daggett was born in this town December 31, 1764, and was a great-grandson of John the first. His father was Thomas, the son of Thomas; his mother was Sibulah Stanley, of this town. He fitted for college under Mr. William Williams, who had at that time a classical school or academy at Wrentham. He entered Yale before he was seventeen, in the junior class, two years in advance, and graduated with high honors in 1783. Soon after leaving college he commenced his legal studies under Charles Chauncey, Esq., and at the same time supported himself by performing the duties of preceptor in the Hopkins Grammar School, in New Haven, and of butler in college. In January, 1786, he was admitted to the bar and settled in New Haven. A short time after this he was chosen a tutor in the college, but owing to his strong preference for the law he declined the appointment.

His fellow-citizens, however, soon claimed him for civil service. In 1791 he was elected a representative to the General Assembly, from New Haven, and was reëlected for six years successively, and then transferred to the Senate. While in the House he was one of the youngest members, and in 1794, three years after his first election, was chosen speaker, at the age of twenty-nine. He retained his seat in the Upper House for seven years, — from 1797 to 1804, — when he resigned. He was in one branch or the other of the State Legislature till May, 1813, when he was elected to the United States Senate. In 1811 he had been appointed State Attorney for New Haven, and he continued in the office until his election to Congress caused him to resign it. When his senatorial term expired he returned to New Haven and resumed his extensive law practice there.

In November, 1824, he was associated with Judge Hitchkock as an instructor in the Law School in New Haven, and in 1826 he was appointed Kent Professor of Law in Yale College. These positions he held until he had reached a very advanced age and his infirmities made it necessary for him to resign them. In 1826 Yale College conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D., and in May of the same year, at the age of sixty-two, he was chosen an associate judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut. It is worthy of note that this appointment was made by a legislature a majority of whose members were opposed to him "in political principles and

preferences," and bears strong testimony not only to his eminent fitness for that high office, but "honorable testimony as well respecting his political opponents," who were willing to forget partisanship, and place in such a position the one best fitted to discharge its duties. In 1828 and 1829 he was mayor of the city of New Haven, and in May, 1832, he was made Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. This was a special testimony to his qualifications, as the usual custom of appointing the senior judge upon the bench to that high office was set aside in his case. He held this office of chief justice until December 31, 1834, when he had arrived at the age of constitutional disability. "Thus for forty-five years, from the beginning of his twenty-sixth to the close of his seventieth year, Mr. Daggett was almost continually engaged in public service."

Soon after commencing his law practice, at the age of twenty-one, Judge Daggett married Wealthy Ann, daughter of Æneas Munson, of New Haven, a women well fitted by "her strong and marked intellectual and religious character" to be the companion of such a man. She died in July, 1839, at the age of seventy-two. In May, 1840, Judge Daggett married Mary, daughter of Major Lines, also of New Haven. By his first wife he had nineteen children, fourteen of whom lived for a considerable time. One of them, a daughter, married Dr. Sereno Dwight, president of Hamilton College, New York; another, a son, an unusually promising young man, lived to graduate from college and then died. Three children only survived the father's death: Leonard A., Wealthy Ann, — who married a Mr. Jenkins, — and Oliver Ellsworth, all of whom are now dead.

Judge Daggett died April 12, 1851, having entered and passed through a quarter part of his eighty-seventh year. The author was indebted to Mr. Leonard A. Daggett, his son, for a sketch of the father's life, as found in an address delivered by his pastor, Rev. Dr. Dutton, which, with reminiscences, etc., was published. From this publication some extracts, anecdotes, etc., are given: —

"The eminence of Judge Daggett in his profession, and among the public men of the State, is sufficiently attested, by the preceding account of the many positions of high responsibility and trust, in which he was placed by the guardians of Yale College, and by the people of this town [New Haven], and this commonwealth; especially when we remember that the political party to which he belonged, which was dominant in the State till he was past middle life, and gave him the most of his honors, embraced, confessedly, many of the most powerful and brilliant minds of the State; and if we remember also, that some of the highest of these trusts were devolved upon him, when his political opponents had come into power, and his own party had passed into a minority."

He commenced his professional and public career, two years before the Federal Constitution was adopted, and joined the party called Federal, of which, it is said, he was not a partisan merely, but a wise and consistent advocate and supporter, and that while Connecticut had many strong men in that party, there was none more so than he. "For many years, no man in the State had so much political influence, an influence amounting so nearly to a political control of the State, as he. And since the defeat and prostration of that party, and the formation of new parties upon new issues, *he*, certainly, has never been ashamed, or reluctant, to have it known,

that he belonged to the same school of politics with Washington and Hamilton, Jay and Pickering, Adams and Ames, Ellsworth and Sherman.

"The features of Judge Daggett's intellectual character, his quick and thorough insight, his well balanced judgement and strong common sense, his quick and ready perception of fitness, his wit and humor, his power of varied and felicitous illustration, his ready memory, his energy of feeling, his concentration, his clear and nervous language, his practical knowledge of law, — these joined to his qualities of person and manner — his tall and commanding form, always dressed carefully, richly, and in perfect taste,[1] rising and dilating as he warmed with his subject, his large and piercing eye, his expressive brow, his strong featured Roman face, his powerful voice ranging through the whole scale, from a subdued yet distinct whisper, till it sounded like a trumpet-call, his utterance varying from solemn deliberation to the vehemence of a torrent, — these qualities of mind, person and manner, made him an advocate, who, in his best days, had, on the whole, no superior, if he had an equal, at the bar of Connecticut."

"His punctuality was most extraordinary. The pointers of the town clock, the sun itself, hardly surpassed him in this respect. His punctuality was well understood by all who knew him, as may be learned from the following incident which he has been heard to relate. Coming into court one day during the reading of a declaration in a case in which he was concerned, he observed that his entrance excited some unusual sensation, and presently ascertained the reason. Upon the case being called in its turn just after the opening of the court, one of the counsel had suggested some delay, as an associate was not present. 'What other counsel is employed?' inquired the judge. 'Mr. Daggett,' was the answer. 'Proceed with the case then,' said the judge, 'for he will be here before you get through the declaration.' And the declaration was scarcely begun before he entered. This punctuality, united with thoroughness and integrity in business, gave him a high degree of self-reliance, and confidence of future support and success; which is well illustrated by a fact which he has occasionally mentioned, that when he was married, he had but two guineas in the world, and one of them he gave as a fee to the officiating minister."

The thorough religious training which he received in his childhood and youth made him very familiar with the Bible, and his mind was abundantly stored with its expressions, and these he was accustomed to introduce into his charges, his arguments and appeals, with great pertinence and power.

"The following instance of a very impressive application made by him of the language of the Bible, is given by one who witnessed it. The case was one which excited great interest in Connecticut — a case in which a man was charged with libel. Mr. Daggett pleaded for the defendant. The man who brought the suit was quite notorious as a violent and vulgar infidel of Thomas Paine's school. This fact, as well as other unfavorable and corrupting features of his character, was fully and legitimately brought out in the testimony. Of this testimony, Mr. Daggett in his plea made full and fearful use. And when he had drawn in strong colors the plaintiff's odious infidelity and immorality, and had carried the excitement of the crowded assembly to the highest point of disgust and abhorrence, — he turned fully round upon him, as he sat within the bar, and thrice pealing out his name, and with look and voice wrought to the intensest expression, poured upon him the language of Paul to Elymas the sorcerer, '*Oh! full of all subtilty, and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right way of the Lord.*'"

An incident occurred at one time when Judge Daggett was holding court in Litchfield, Conn., which illustrates his reputation among the lawyers for familiarity with the Scriptures, as well as his accurate knowledge of Shakspeare's works, which he used to say were next to the Bible. It also illustrates the ignorance of the Bible, and the confounding of inspired with uninspired language common among some public men, and in no wise creditable to them. A distinguished lawyer, pleading before him, quoted, and made a slight mistake in quoting, the words of Iago: —

"Trifles light as air,
Are to the jealous, confirmations strong
As proofs of holy writ."

[1] Judge Daggett continued to use the Continental style of dress through his entire life.

The judge immediately corrected the mistake. The lawyer courteously acknowledged the correction, and was proceeding with his argument, when another lawyer who sat near him pulled his coat, and said in a loud whisper, "You must look out how you quote *Scripture* when *Daggett* is on the bench."

He attached so much importance to familiarity with biblical language, that he was very anxious to have his children acquire it, and upon one occasion he offered the gift of a horse, to his youngest son, when he was a mere youth, "if he would commit to memory, the whole book of Job. The task was undertaken and accomplished. The horse accordingly was bought and given, and was appropriately named Job."

Judge Daggett from the very commencement of his active life was a liberal supporter of religious institutions. He was always a regular attendant upon church services, and when past middle life he became connected with the North — now the United — Church of New Haven.

He was an enthusiast in his profession, and felt he had not been wise to be so much in political life. In speaking of himself in this connection he said: "Every hour away from his professional studies and pursuits has been away from his duty, and he has felt the evil in his purse if not otherwise." He was very much interested in young men and especially in those who were to follow his own profession. He not only gave them words of encouragement and counsel but proved his interest by many deeds of kindness and generosity. One instance among many is mentioned. He sent at one time for a young law student to call at his office. Greeting him very cordially, he said he knew what it was to be a young man dependent upon his own exertions; asked if he did not want some money, adding that $100 or $200 would be loaned to him with pleasure. The young man was grateful, but disliked to borrow, lest he might never be able to pay, which would be the case if he should not live or succeed in life. "Never mind that," said Mr. Daggett, "I have no concern about the pay or your success — both are sure." The money was finally accepted, and in time repaid; but the encouragement of the action and the gratitude it called for were of far more value to the young man than the money.

"Judge Daggett was a true and accomplished gentleman. He was, in a very extraordinary degree, polished in his manners, gracefully and scrupulously observant of all civilities. His courtesy was remarkable. He was disposed, and his almost instinctive sense of propriety and his graceful and easy manners and language enabled him, to please all whom he met; and this made him a model of courtesy. In the performance of social civilities and duties, to relatives, neighbors, and friends, he was an example, such as is rarely if ever found in these days. His courtesy, his varied knowledge of men and things, his lively feelings accommodated readily to the old and the young, his cheerfulness, his wit and humor, his fund of anecdote, and his reminiscences of the past, made him the life of every social circle into which he entered.

"The immediate occasion of Judge Daggett's death was simply a cold which came upon him about ten days before that event. It settled upon his

lungs, and his strength was too much enfeebled to throw it off. It can hardly be said that he had disease upon him. Age had exhausted his vital power. Passing away thus at the age of fourscore and six years, he is appropriately described in these lines of Dryden: —

> 'Of no distemper, of no blast he died,
> But fell like autumn fruit that mellowed long,
> Even wondered at, because he dropped no sooner.
> Fate seemed to wind him up for *fourscore years;*
> Yet feebly ran he on *six winters more,*
> Till, like a clock worn out with rating time,
> The wheels of weary life at last stood still.'"

Leonard A. Daggett, one of the sons of Judge Daggett, resided all his life in New Haven, where he died in 1867. He was a merchant, and was a highly honored and respected man. A son and a grandson[1] are practising physicians in that city, both sustaining the high character and excellent reputation established by their distinguished ancestor.

Oliver Ellsworth Daggett was the youngest son of Judge Daggett, and seemed to inherit a goodly portion of his father's eminent ability. He was born in New Haven, January 14, 1810, graduated from Yale College at the early age of eighteen, and pursued his theological studies in his native city. He was pastor of a church in Hartford, Conn., for six years, over the Congregational church in Canandaigua, N. Y., for twenty-three years, resigning the latter position to become a professor of divinity in Yale, and college pastor. He remained in those positions for three years, and then accepted a pastorate in New London, Conn. He died very suddenly in Hartford, September 1, 1880. He was considered a man of "great natural ability, an effective speaker, and an able writer," and "as a conversationalist he had scarce a peer." Some one in writing of him says: "Suffice it to say that he was a rare man. You do not often meet his like in a summer's day." His wife was Elizabeth Watson, of Hartford. She, with three children, one son and two daughters, survives. [She and one daughter have since died.]

John Foster, Esq., appears from the records to have been a useful public man in his day, though but few facts of his life are known to the author. He was chosen moderator of town meetings for a long succession of years, was a surveyor of lands, an active justice of the peace, and for several years a representative of the town, etc.

Dr. Bezaleel Mann, a well-known and worthy physician of this town, deserves a notice in these sketches. He was a descendant, a grandson, of Rev. Samuel Mann, the first minister of Wrentham.[2] He was the son of

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[1] Dr. David L. Daggett, and his son, Dr. William G. Daggett.

[2] Horace Mann, the distinguished advocate of popular education, was descended from Rev. Samuel Mann. He was born in that part of Wrentham which became Franklin in 1796. He graduated at Brown University, and became a tutor there for a time. He was a member of the Legislature, and

Lieutenant Samuel and Zipporah Mann, and was born in Wrentham, June 15, 1722. He had two brothers who were born and lived and died in that town. Rufus left descendants; Ebenezer died without children. They lived in the Cowell neighborhood. Dr. Mann studied his profession with Dr. Hewes, of Foxborough, and commenced the practice of it in this town some time previous to 1750. He had the reputation of being a skilful physician, and had acquired an extensive circle of practice. He was a man of influence and ability, as his public services sufficiently attest. During the Revolutionary period he was chosen to positions of trust and responsibility, which in those days were filled only by men in whose honor and integrity the people placed entire confidence. He was a man of letters, as well as an expert physician, and some of his writings are, it is said, preserved in the New England Genealogical and Historical Society in Boston.

His character is justly portrayed in his epitaph: —

Bezaleel Mann, mort. die Octo. tert. 1796, an. ætat. 74. Early imbued with the principles of moral rectitude, he sustained through the diversified concerns of a long and active life, the character of an honest man. As a physician, he commanded, during the period of nearly 50 years, that unlimited confidence and respect, which talents alone can inspire. The features of his mind were sketched by the glowing pencil of nature, filled up with the qualities that adorn humanity, and shaded with few infirmities the frequent attendants on mental excellence.

His wife was Bebe, daughter of Mr. Ezekiel Carpenter, of this town. She lies buried by the side of her husband in the family burying-ground at West Attleborough and her epitaph tells the story of her life and character: —

Bebe Mann, his wife, mort. die Octo. tert. 1793. ætat. 61. She was a person of bright genius, of few words, and much reserved in mind. From early youth she marked all her paths with virtue, and timely took the advice Christ gave to his disciples, and made to herself a friend of the mammon of unrighteousness, and when she failed, could, with Christian confidence, say, that her witness was in heaven and her reward on high.

This stone is erected by the grateful hand of filial piety to protect the awful dust of revered parents.

These inscriptions may be found in Alden's valuable Collection of Epitaphs.

Dr. Mann had several sons who entered the profession.

Preston Mann was the first graduate from this town at Brown University, 1776. He became a physician and settled at Newport, R. I., where he was for years a leader in social circles. He acquired wealth and owned a handsome and extensive place, and long after his fortune rendered the practice of his profession unnecessary he was frequently summoned to consultations. He was a noble and upright man, one of culture and refinement, of courtly and polished manners. His acquaintance embraced the most distinguished persons

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President of the Senate; Secretary of the Board of Education of Massachusetts; Projector of the State Lunatic Hospital at Worcester; a member of Congress; and President of Antioch College at Yellow Springs, Greene County, Ohio, where he labored with great faithfulness and self-denial in the interests of that then struggling institution, and where he died in 1859. His statue stands in front of the State House at Boston by the side of that of Daniel Webster.

of the time and his elegant mansion was the centre of a charming and liberal hospitality widely extended among the people of the highest social position in the land. This mansion remained in the family until a few years ago and is still, it is said, a fine-looking residence.

JOHN MILTON MANN, another son, was also a graduate of Brown University — 1787 — and became a physician. He removed to Hudson, N. Y., in 1800, where he was drowned in attempting to cross the river. It was in the night — he had been called to the bedside of a patient — and he "met his death while in the performance of his duty." This occurred August 24, 1809. A monument was erected to his memory by the citizens of Hudson, upon which was placed the following inscription: [1]

Doctor Mann was born in Attleborough, Massachusetts; he was educated at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and came to reside in Hudson, A.D. 1800. This city is indebted to him for the introduction of vaccine inoculation, though here as elsewhere, the philanthropic enterprise was obliged to contend against prejudice and misrepresentation. The common council of Hudson, of which he was a member, voted that they would attend his funeral and wear crape on the left arm thirty days on account of their respect for his character and their regret for his loss. Here are laid the remains of one whom society respected and his kindred loved. He was a wise scholar, a skillful physician, a kind husband and father, and a sincere Christian. Deeply is he bewailed. Few men of his time possessed a mind more happily turned to the acquisition of science, or exhibited more perspicuously patience and vigor than Doctor Mann. Alas! just as his faculties had become mature and society had learned their value, just when in the time of bodily, and mental manhood, with his honors thickening upon him, death struck him down. But let not infidel grief regard his mind as having been cultivated or his knowledge accumulated in vain; for so he was enabled to enter the future life with enlarged capacities of enjoyment, with more worthy views of his own nature and destiny, with clearer apprehension of his Heavenly Father's will, and with added incitement to constant obedience.

HERBERT MANN, still another son, and said to be the brightest of them all, was educated a physician and entered as surgeon on the privateer General Arnold, Captain Magee, and was lost in that terrible storm which occurred in Plymouth Harbor, December 26, 1778. The stone which is here erected to his memory contains the following epitaph: "In memory of Doctor Herbert Mann, who with 119 sailors, with Capt. James Magee, master, went on board the brig General Arnold, in Boston Harbor, 25th. Dec. 1778, hoisted sail, made for sea, and were immediately overtaken by the most tremendous snow storm with cold, that was ever known in the memory of man, and, unhappily, parted their cable in Plymouth harbor, in a place called the Cow-yards, and he, with about 100 others, was frozen to death; sixty-six of whom were buried in one grave.[2] He was in the 21st year of his age. — And now Lord God Almighty, just and true are all thy ways, but who can stand before thy cold."

In Dr. Thacher's "History of Plymouth" is found a graphic description of this most terrific storm and awful wreck known in history, which seems almost unparalleled in human suffering: —

[1] See *Newport Mercury* for October 13, 1877. [2] In the town of Plymouth.

In 1778, December 26th, 27th, the inhabitants of this town were called to witness a catastrophe truly appalling to humanity. The brig 'General Arnold,' mounting twenty guns, having a crew of one hundred and five men and boys, commanded by Capt. James Magee, of Boston, sailed from that port on Thursday, 24th of December, bound on a cruise. On Friday anchored off Plymouth Harbor, being destitute of a pilot. In the night, a heavy gale, drove on the White Flat. She soon filled with water, and it became necessary to cut away the masts. Unfortunately a great disturbance was occasioned by intoxication among some of the seamen in the steerage, which was with difficulty quelled by the officers. A tremendous storm of wind and snow came on, and a considerable number of men died on Saturday afternoon, and in the night. Three men, not of the crew, being on board, took the yawl and passed eight or ten rods to the ice, and were taken on board a schooner that was frozen in. Had the boat been returned as promised, many lives would have been saved.

Sunday morning the vessel was seen in a most distressful situation, enveloped in ice and snow, and the whole shore was frozen to a solid body of ice, the winds and waves raging with such dreadful violence that no possible relief could be afforded to the miserable sufferers. The inhabitants made every effort to reach the wreck in boats, but were obliged to put back, although aware that the seamen were in the arms of death, and when the miserable victims on board saw the boats returning, leaving them in a condition of utter hopelessness, their spirits were appalled, and numbers were seen to fall dead on the deck.

On Monday the inhabitants passed over the ice to the wreck. Here was presented a scene unutterably awful and distressing. It is scarcely possible for the human mind to conceive of a more appalling spectacle. The ship was sunk ten feet in the sand; the waves had been for about thirty-six hours sweeping the main deck; the men had crowded to the quarter-deck, and even here they were obliged to pile together dead bodies to make room for the living. Seventy dead bodies, frozen into all imaginable postures, were strewn over the deck or attached to the shrouds and spars; about thirty exhibited signs of life, but were unconscious whether in life or death. The bodies remained in the postures in which they died, the features dreadfully distorted; some were erect, some bending forward, some sitting with the head resting on the knees, and some with both arms extended, clinging to spars or some parts of the vessel. The few survivors, and the dead bodies were brought over the ice on sleds and boards, and the dead were piled on the floor of the courthouse, exhibiting a scene calculated to impress even the most callous heart with deep humility and sorrow. It has been said that the Rev. Mr. Robbins fainted when called to perform the funeral ceremonies. Those bodies that were to be deposited in coffins were first put into the town book; a considerable number were seen floating on the water fastened by ropes, that their form might be made to conform to the coffins, but about sixty were thrown into a large pit as they were taken from the vessel. This pit is in a hollow on the south-west side of the burial-ground, and remains without a stone. The greater part of those who were found alive expired soon after. Capt. Magee survived, and performed several profitable voyages afterwards. He abstained entirely from drinking ardent spirits, but was of opinion that he was greatly benefited by putting rum into his boots. Those who drank rum were the more immediate victims, several being found dead in the very spot where they drank it.

The following letter from Captain Magee is deemed sufficiently interesting to present here: [1]

As I am informed a report has circulated through the country that myself and people did not receive that relief and assistance to which the distressed and unfortunate are ever entitled, justice to the inhabitants of the town of Plymouth, in which harbor I was unhappily shipwrecked, indispensably requires of me to contradict so groundless a report, and state the circumstances.

Agreeable to the account before published, in the morning of the 26th ultimo, in the severest

[1] It was printed in the *Boston Evening Post* of January 23, 1779, and with some facts following was taken from an account of this calamity by William S. Russell, Esq., printed in the *Old Colony Memorial* (Plymouth), December 13, 1862.

of all storms, the brigantine I commanded (called the General Arnold) dragged her anchors, and struck on a white flat, notwithstanding every effort and precaution to prevent it; in about twelve hours after she bilged. The quarter deck was the only place that could afford the most distant prospect of safety, and a few hours presented a scene there that to mention the particulars would shock the least delicate humanity. Some of my people were stifled to death in the snow; others perished with extremity of the cold, and a few were washed off the deck and drowned. The morning of the 28th, so ardently wished for, discovered a spectacle the most dreadful; forty or fifty men, who the day before were strong and healthy, lying dead upon the deck in all manner of attitudes. The survivors, finding themselves within a mile of the shore, entertained the most sanguine hopes of being taken off the wreck, and rescued from the frozen and premature fate that awaited them; but, though constant and repeated attempts were made for this purpose by the good people of Plymouth during the whole day, we were so situated, that all human endeavors to relieve us were exerted in vain. Several of my men, imagining from this circumstance that death was inevitable, gave way to despair, and instantly yielded [up] the ghost. We continued in this deplorable and suffering condition until Monday the 29th, at twelve of the clock, when the inhabitants of Plymouth were enabled to bring us off the wreck and receive us to their homes, and administered everything to us that was necessary, and comfortable, with that tenderness and social sympathy which do honor to human nature. The dead, amounting in the whole to seventy-two men, were carried on shore and decently buried as soon as possible; some, indeed, who were alive were saved only to drag out a few miserable days in the extreme of pain and then expire. An universal disposition was shown to secure everything belonging to the owners and people, and the minutest article, wheresoever found, was *sacredly* taken care of, of which I shall always retain a grateful remembrance as well as of that kind Providence which preserved my life.

The total number who outlived those terrible experiences was thirty-four, including Captain Magee. "Among those who perished were Dr. Mann of Attleborough, Dr. Sears, Capt. John Russell of Barnstable, commander of the marines, and Lieut. Daniel Hall. The last two were buried in one grave on the south side of the burial hill." [1]

Newton Mann, the fourth and last of the brothers, removed to the State of New York and settled in Whitesborough. He started the village of Mannville, where he became an extensive cotton manufacturer and a man of wealth, rivaling, it is said, in his style of living the elegance of his brother in Newport. His wife was Abigail Maxcy, whom he married March 22, 1792.

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[1] It should be observed that when persons are exposed to intense cold, there is always a propensity to sleep, but the moment it is indulged it becomes the sleep of death.— *Dr. Thacher's Plymouth*, p. 216. Probably numbers lost their lives in this manner. The dead were frozen in all shapes and some coffins contained two bodies, for men and boys were found locked in each others' arms. As the deck of the vessel was being examined to separate the living from the dead one man was seen to merely raise his eyelids, being unable to make any other sign of life. He was taken on shore and put into cold water, remaining for several hours, and by that means "he was resuscitated, but with the most exquisite pain." He said that while the examination on the deck was in progress he heard distinctly what was said and became extremely anxious lest he should be passed by as dead and so exerted all his remaining strength to convince those he heard talking that he was still alive. He lost both of his feet but lived for fully forty years after this event. His name was Barnabas Downs, and he was from Barnstable. Another survivor was Cornelius Marchant, whose feet were crippled, but he lived for over fifty years. He wrote a statement of the occurrences of this terrible time, in which he testified to the courage and good management of the officers and especially to the watchful care over others manifested by the captain. He was particularly kind to a little boy placed in his care, whom he carried in his arms until "extreme necessity obliged him to put the child down, and let him take his chance for life." This man Marchant died in 1838, aged seventy-five, the last survivor of the shipwreck.

Dr. Bezaleel Mann had also several daughters. One of them, Mary, married Mr. Josiah Draper, a prominent man of this town. She died May 2, 1808, in the fifty-fourth year of her age, and is buried in the family burying-ground in Oldtown. The following inscription is upon her headstone: —

"She conducted her household and her affairs with discretion. She tempered her authority with a happy mixture of tender affection. She met Death with the resignation and hope of a Christian."

Another daughter married a Mr. Richmond and settled in Providence.

Still another, Eunice, on September 9, 1790, married Dr. Seth Capron, of this town, one of her father's students. They removed with her brother Newton to New York.

General Horace Capron was their son, and was born in this town August 4, 1804. As his parents had settled in New York State, doubtless his childhood was passed there. When a young man he went to the manufacturing town of Laurel, Md., and became largely interested in factories there. He also became interested in agricultural pursuits — purchased a farm in the vicinity of the town, which he made quite famous by the excellent manner in which he cultivated it. He was commander of the militia company of Laurel, and with his company participated in the ceremonies at the laying of the cornerstone of the Washington Monument. He removed from Maryland to Illinois and entered the army from that State.

In January, 1863, he received a commission as Lieutenant-Colonel of the Fourteenth Illinois Cavalry, and in a very short time was promoted to the colonelcy. He was constantly in active service while in the army and was frequently selected by his commanding officers to fill positions requiring great skill and courage. He was in action in almost every battle during the campaign of East Tennessee. He was with the army of General Sherman in that unique and most memorable campaign, his "March to the Sea"; he participated in all of its battles, and when Atlanta was taken Colonel Capron with men from his old regiment formed the advance guard of the Twentieth Corps, which drove the enemy's cavalry through the city. He was with General Stoneman when that officer was captured, but he, with three hundred brave men, cut their way through the enemy's lines, and after six days of fighting succeeded in reaching the lines of the Union army. Later he was with General Thomas and "rendered good service in the campaign against Gen. Hood." Still later, "after the relief of Nashville," he was obliged to offer his resignation because of disability.

He was in Washington for the purpose of attending the ceremonies of the dedication of the Washington Monument, when he took a severe cold. A very brief illness followed which terminated fatally, and he died at the "Portland," in that city February 22, 1885. See *The National Tribune* for February 26, 1885.

There are but few survivors of the Mann family. The last in this town of the second generation was Mrs. Ira Richards, daughter of Mr. Josiah and Mary Mann Draper and granddaughter of Dr. Bezaleel Mann. She died at North Attleborough not many years since at a very advanced age. Some of the above facts relating to her family were furnished by her to the *Chronicle*, as may be seen in its issue of November 15, 1873, and some of the others were found in the *Newport Mercury* for October 13, 1877.

Rev. Jonathan Maxcy, s.t.d., President of Rhode Island, Union, and Columbia (S. C.) colleges, was one of the most eminent pulpit orators of this country. He was born in this town September 2, 1768. He prepared for college in the school of Rev. William Williams, of Wrentham, which was then the most celebrated institution in the vicinity and the resort of a great many young men for the pursuit of classical studies and preparation for college.[1] He graduated at Brown University in 1787 and was immediately appointed a tutor. He was ordained pastor of the First Baptist Church in Providence, September 8, 1791, and at the same time was appointed the first Professor of Divinity in that college.[2] After the death of President Manning he was unanimously elected president, a.d. 1792, at the early age of twenty-four. He presided over this university for eleven years with distinguished success and with a splendid reputation for eloquence and learning. His administration was marked by mildness, urbanity, and dignity. Under his guardianship the university acquired a distinguished name for oratory. Guided by his fostering genius it sent forth a constellation of eloquent and accomplished speakers who have shone in various departments of public life, and whose eloquence has been felt in the pulpit, at the bar, and in the halls of legislation, many of whom have acquired a national renown. He was peculiarly fitted to stamp impressions of his own character on the minds of those around him and to infuse his own spirit into theirs. He acquired a salutary influence over the youth committed to his charge. He imbued their hearts with a taste for literature and with a love of truth and moral beauty, and excited in their bosoms the most ardent aspirations after excellence. He knew well how to kindle and fan the flame of genius. His memory was cherished by all his pupils with peculiar affection and gratitude. In speaking of the university it has been truly said that he was one "whose name and fame are identified with its reputation, and whose mingled mildness, dignity, and goodness, equalled only by his genius, learning and eloquence, subdued all envy, made all admirers friends, and gave him an irresistible sway over the minds of those placed under his care."[3]

Though accomplished in every department of learning, he was distinguished

[1] See "Guild's Manning and Brown University," p. 401, note.

[2] He was the first and only Professor of Divinity ever appointed in Brown University.

[3] Hon. Virgil Maxcy's Discourse before the Phi Beta Kappa of Brown University, September 4, 1833.

more particularly as a belles-lettres scholar. His oratory was in some respects peculiar. There was nothing in it like rant or affectation — no appearance of that popular declamation which is so often employed to captivate the multitude. There was apparently no attempt in it to produce effect — no labored display, but everything appeared easy, natural, and unstudied. It was deep, impassioned, but not declamatory. His voice was not naturally powerful, but he had it perfectly under his control through all its intonations. He usually commenced in a calm and moderate manner but grew warmer and more animated as he advanced in his discourse, and gradually and imperceptibly gained upon the attention and feelings of his hearers until every one present was wholly engrossed upon the subject of the speaker. Indeed, he himself seemed completely absorbed in his own subject, and by the influence of sympathy carried his audience with him.

His delivery was remarkably expressive. Every sentiment he uttered came from the heart and vibrated through his whole frame. Every cord and muscle was an echo to his soul. His elocution was full of grace, yet his *power* was not in this; it was in the life — the soul, which he infused into his voice, his gestures, and his countenance — all expressive and harmonious. His eloquence was at once graceful and forcible. In a word, he had in perfection what Demosthenes called *action*.

He did not neglect to cultivate the minor graces of elocution. He never made a prayer or delivered anything in public extempore, even on the most ordinary occasions, in which every sentence and every word were not accurately arranged and in their right place. Though his voice was naturally feeble it was able to occupy a large compass, and every word and every syllable he uttered in the largest audience fell distinctly on the ear of the most distant auditor.

The following extract will show the estimation in which he was held at the South. It was written but a short time previous to his death and contains a brief but lively description of the impressive effects of his eloquence, even when his powers were impaired by advancing age and feeble health: —

From the *Charleston City Gazette*. Extract of a letter from a gentleman residing in Columbia to his friend in Charleston.

Columbia, 6th. July, 1819.

Last Sunday we went to hear Dr. Maxcy. It being the 4th of July, it was a discourse appropriate to that eventful period. I had always been led to believe the Doctor an eloquent and impressive preacher; but had no idea, till now, that he possessed such transcendent powers. I never heard such a stream of eloquence. — It flowed from his lips, even like the oil from Aaron's head. Every ear was delighted, every heart was elated, every bosom throbbed with gratitude. Such appropriate metaphor! such grand, such sublime descriptions! such exalted ideas of Deity! and delivered with all the grace, the force, the elegance of a youthful orator! I was sometimes in pain, lest this good old man should outdo himself, and become exhausted, but as he advanced in his discourse, he rose in animation, till at length he reached heights the most sublime, and again descended with the same facility with which he soared. So far as I can judge, (and your partiality, I know, will allow me to be no mean critic) there was not heard the slightest deviation from the most correct enunciation and grammatical

arrangement; all the powers of art seemed subservient to his absolute control. In short, I never heard anything to compare to Dr. Maxcy's sermon, in all the course of my life, and, old as I am, I would now walk even twenty miles through the hottest sands, to listen to such another discourse. I am persuaded I shall never hear such another in this life.

Dr. Maxcy's most celebrated performance while he presided over Brown University, regarded as a specimen of pulpit oratory, was his sermon on the Existence and Attributes of God, delivered at Providence in 1795, which was frequently spoken of at the end of nearly a half-century, and produced at the time the most lively and striking effect on the audience. Those who heard it never forgot it. The impression it produced was the result in a great degree of the manner of its delivery. Such a brilliant effort of eloquence has seldom been witnessed in any house of public worship. This discourse, though enlivened by a bold, luxuriant, and brilliant imagination, and a loftiness of conception, is yet characterized by his usual neatness and simplicity of language. Indeed, in his highest flights his *style* of writing was always remarkable for a pure English idiom and a classical simplicity of language.

In fine, he was an eloquent orator and a learned scholar.

In 1801 he was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Harvard University.

In 1802 he resigned the presidency of Brown University and accepted that of Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., where he remained till the establishment of the new college in Columbia, S. C., in 1804, of which he was appointed the first president, and immediately removed to that place, where he continued till the day of his death, June 4, 1820, at the age of fifty-two. He was appointed to the office of president the youngest, and presided the longest in proportion to his years, of any person in this country. He was connected with some college, either as student or officer, nearly thirty-seven out of the fifty-two years of his life.

The following story of a college freak is told of Dr. Maxcy while he was in South Carolina: —

On one occasion several of the students resolved to drag the doctor's carriage into the woods, and fixed upon a night for the performance of the exploit. One of their number, however, was troubled with some compunctious visitings, and managed to convey to the worthy President a hint that it would be well for him to secure the door of the carriage-house. Instead of paying any heed to this suggestion, the doctor proceeded on the appointed night to the carriage-house and ensconced his portly person inside the vehicle. In less than an hour some half dozen young gentlemen came to his retreat and cautiously withdrew the carriage into the road. When they were fairly out of the college precincts they began to joke freely with each other by name.

One of them complained of the weight of the carriage, and another replied by swearing it was heavy enough to have the old fellow himself inside. For nearly a mile they proceeded along the highway, and then struck into the woods to a cover which they concluded would effectually conceal the vehicle. Making themselves infinitely merry at the doctor's expense, and conjecturing how and when he would find his carriage, they at length reached the spot where they had resolved to leave it. Just as they were about to depart — having once more agreed that "the carriage was heavy enough to have the old doctor and all his tribe in it" — they were startled by the sudden dropping of one of the glass panels, and the well-known voice of the

doctor himself thus addressing them: "So, so, young gentlemen, you are going to leave me in the woods, are you? Surely, as you have brought me hither for your own gratification, you will not refuse to take me back for mine. Come, Mr. —— and —— and ——, buckle to and let us return; it 's getting late." There was no appeal; for the window was raised, and the doctor resumed his seat. Almost without a word the discomfited young gentlemen took their places at the pole and the back of the vehicle, and quite as expeditiously, if with less voice, did they retrace their steps. In silence they dragged the carriage into its wonted place, and then retreated precipitately to their rooms, to dream of the account they must render on the morrow. When they had retired, the doctor quietly vacated the carriage and went to his house, where he related the story to his family with much glee. He never called the heroes of that nocturnal expedition to an account, nor was the carriage ever afterward dragged at night into the woods.[1]

Dr. Maxcy was the second president of Brown University, that ancient institution, one who reflected the highest lustre on the university at which he graduated and over which he presided while a mere youth. He was one of the most cherished ornaments of the religious denomination to which he belonged, and one of the most impressive, brilliant, and eloquent pulpit orators of the age in which he lived. No one has enjoyed a greater popularity; no one was ever more idolized by his contemporaries than he. As a teacher of the highest branches of moral philosophy he had no superior, and he produced a profound impression and influence on the pupils successively under his charge. His whole career was an honor to American scholarship.

His wife was Susan Hopkins, a daughter of Commodore Eseck Hopkins, of Providence, by whom he had several daughters and four sons, all of whom were liberally educated. Several of the sons survived him and continued for many years in the profession of the law. His widow continued to live for some time after his death, in Columbia, S. C.

He published "A Discourse on the Death of President Manning," 1792; "A Sermon on the Existence of God, Demonstrated from the Works of Creation," 1795; "An Oration before the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers," 1795; "A Fourth of July Oration," 1795 and 1799; "A Discourse on the Atonement," in two parts, 1796; "A Dedication Sermon at Cumberland, R. I.," 1796; "A Sermon before the Warren Association," at Boston, 1797; "A Funeral Sermon before the Legislature of South Carolina," 1818; and numerous addresses, 1797, 1801, etc., to the graduating classes of Brown University. His discourses and addresses were collected and published in 1844 with a brief memoir of his life by Rev. Romeo Elton, late professor in Brown University.[2]

It requires an abler pen than mine to portray the amiable and brilliant character of Maxcy, and to do justice to his splendid talents as an orator. Those only who knew him in the meridian of life, and who had seen and felt

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[1] From *Taunton Daily Gazette* for April 22, 1878.

[2] Dr. Elton resided in England for a number of years, having married there. While in that country he published an edition of "Selections from Dr. Maxcy" which had an extensive circulation there. He presented a copy to Queen Victoria, who highly appreciated it, and, it is said, read one or two of the sermons to her children.

the power of his eloquence, could have given an adequate description. His memory demanded a tribute of filial affection from some one of his many distinguished pupils who were so deeply indebted to his example and instructions for the eminence which they enjoyed in public life.[1]

Dr. Maxcy was in many respects the most remarkable man born in this town; one who strongly impressed the age in which he lived, and attracted all who came within the sphere of his influence, and all who knew him or heard him.

From an admirable communication of Rev. Gardner B. Perry,[2] a native of Norton, near the residence of the Maxcys in Attleborough, and who was a pupil of Dr. Maxcy's both in Brown University and at Union College, and who was familiar with him socially as well as in his capacity as a teacher, I make some extracts, describing the man and his personal appearance and habits and his manner of teaching and disciplining his pupils: —

Says Dr. Perry: "From early life I had some knowledge of his history, and the estimation in which he was held by the literary and religious world. My own personal acquaintance with him commenced when I became a member of Brown University in 1800, and it became more intimate, perhaps I should say, familiar, when he removed to Union College. I was put under his special care, and became virtually a member of his family.

"In person he was below the middle size, and rather thin in flesh. But his face was lighted up with a fine intellectual expression which chiefly occupied the eye, and engrossed the attention of those about him. The mind emphatically made the man. The principle involved in that expression, so far as it concerned the outward person, was with the expression of the late Aaron Burr, more fully illustrated in him, than in any other individual whom I ever met. He was well proportioned in his form, dignified in his appearance, and impressive in his manners. A remarkable harmony prevailed between the movements of his person and the workings of his mind and heart. Every emotion without, seemed but an expression of what was working within. He wore a three cornered cocked hat, and on all public occasions appeared in silk cassock and bands. His complexion was light and somewhat sallow; though a slight freshness never failed to diffuse itself over his cheek when he was moved by any of the gentler feelings. His forehead was high and open; his eye a mellow, pleasant blue; and the whole contour of his head and face though not altogether filling up the idea of physical beauty, certainly afforded a striking image of mental power and high moral feeling.

"Dr. Maxcy was rather uncommonly domestic in his feelings, and no man took livelier interest than he in whatever concerned the welfare of his family. His children at the time I was most with him, were young, the oldest probably not exceeding ten or twelve years. These he encouraged to visit him morning and evening in his study, when he cultivated the most delightful familiarity with them, and expressed the deepest interest in every indication of intellectual or moral improvement. I noticed that in conversing with them, he ordinarily used the same form of expression as when speaking with persons of mature age, and his reason for doing so was that he supposed that by this means they would sooner become acquainted with the language of books, and thus be enabled to advance more rapidly in their studies.

"Dr. Maxcy was exclusively devoted to the duties of his office, and to his studies. He was never, so far as I know, involved in any secular business beyond the common concerns of his family. He was remarkable for diligent and persevering labor. Few departments of knowl-

[1] A demand partially at least met by Dr. Elton's work. — EDITOR.

[2] He was born in Norton, August 9, 1783, son of Nathan and Phebe (Braman) Perry. He entered Brown University under the presidency of Dr. Maxcy, and removed with him to Union College and graduated there in 1804. He became a tutor in that college for several years. Dr. Perry himself became a distinguished teacher, and was for some years pastor of the church in East Bradford, Mass., where he continued till his death.

edge could be named into which he did not extend his inquiries, and with which he had not become so familiar as to enable him to hold an instructive conversation.

"Two distinguished lawyers of one of the middle States, after having incidentally held a protracted discussion with him on the law of entail (he being entirely unknown to them), came to the conclusion that he was probably a Judge in one of the higher Courts of the United States.

"Dr. Maxcy supposed that with a proper training of the mind, most books might be gone through in a much shorter time than is usually devoted to them, and so a much greater amount of knowledge be obtained in a given period.

"His sermons were composed with the utmost rapidity, and yet when composed, they seemed to be graven on the tablet of his memory, as with a pen of iron and the point of a diamond. If he had occasion, as he sometimes had, to write out a discourse after he had delivered it, there would be found not only the same arrangement and the same general train of thought, but nearly all the same language.

"While Dr. Maxcy was an excellent general scholar, he had made himself specially familiar with the branches which he was accustomed to teach. The manner in which the classes regarded his attainments in history may be illustrated by a remark which was made by one of the students in coming from the lecture-room, — namely, that he believed the doctrine of metempsychosis must be true, for, unless the President had himself, in some form, lived in Athens, when the events recorded in our lesson occurred, he never could have been so intimately acquainted with the characters and lives of the men, nor with the general tempers of the people he had been describing to us. This thorough knowledge of the various branches in his department, in connection with a remarkable facility of communication, rendered him an uncommonly interesting teacher.

"His questions were shaped in such a manner, as to save the student who had the least knowledge of the lesson, from the embarrassment consequent on an entire inability to answer, and at the same time, to leave the best informed with the conviction that there were other things connected with the subject, which it would be useful for them to learn. His mode of teaching was eminently adapted to promote the spirit of inquiry, and the students left the lecture-room, talking over the subject of the recitation, and, after reaching their rooms, often studied lessons more thoroughly than they had before they left them. A system of questions drawn up after his manner, would be an invaluable help to the youth of the present day, and, perhaps, not more valuable to the youth, than helpful to the great body of instructors.

"Dr. Maxcy manifested much of a devotional spirit. His mind was eminently fruitful in serious and devout reflection. It was true of him in a spiritual sense, that, 'the cloud returned after the rain.' In his prayers there was always an emotion and impressiveness that left you without any doubt that the spirit was helping him. His manner in the pulpit was characterized by great simplicity, ease, and earnestness. His style of preaching altogether was eminently fitted to produce solemn reflection and deep self-communion, and thus lead to the best practical results. There was nothing, however, in his public performances, that was of a particularly exciting or agitating character. Everything was serene, symmetrical, impressive. He attempted to imitate no one, and caught no one's peculiarities. Destitute of all pretension, he was evidently just what his Creator intended he should be; and every one felt in listening to him, that if he were anything else than what he was, it would be at the expense of disobeying the impulses of his own nature.

"I cannot close this communication without saying that I have ever entertained a deep sense of my obligation to Dr. Maxcy, — not only for the important instruction which I received from him, but for his watchful care over me at a period when 'dangers stand thick around us.'"

The following is from the pen of Tristam Burgess,[1] who was one of his pupils and associates: —

It is not possible for me to produce a portrait of Jonathan Maxcy, which shall do justice to the great original. I saw him as an instructor presiding over a scientific and literary institu-

[1] He graduated under President Maxcy; was afterwards professor of oratory in Brown University, a member of Congress, and himself a distinguished orator. From these two prominent men we have the recollections of those who had personal knowledge of Dr. Maxcy and sustained intimate relations with him.

tion, and as a minister, proclaim the glorious truths of the Gospel; but I was then a pupil, who but a little before had exchanged the use of the plough and the sickle, for books, and knew little of what the high offices which Dr. Maxcy held, required of him.

If I could remember so as to tell how his administration of those offices affected me, I should draw a picture that would be characterized by surpassing beauty and power; but it is so long since I sat under his instruction, that the bright vision which then astonished and delighted me, has in a great degree faded from my recollection. Nevertheless, I well remember that no man could have been more popular in the college than President Maxcy. I never heard so much as a whisper against him. He was universally loved as a parent, and admired and revered as a great and good man. Though he was less than the medium stature, there was in his countenance and manners a dignity that seemed to raise him above the ordinary level; and withal he had so much benignity and affability as well as intelligence, as to captivate every person with whom he conversed.

He was born an orator, as Burns was born a poet. When this great man appeared as the Fourth of July orator at Providence, as he did on one occasion, he attracted a degree of attention almost unprecedented. His theme was the "Principles and Events of the American Revolution," and his audience consisted chiefly of those who had passed through that long and terrible conflict, which gave to our nation its independence. Not to mention any other part of his oration, all of which was admirable, I will recall one out of many brilliant coruscations, containing the divine fire, the heaven born electricity, of pure eloquence. When, with a glow of patriotism, the orator exclaimed, — "Should our enemy again return to our shores, he will find every plain a Marathon, every defile a Thermopylæ," it was then that I felt, as I doubt not all felt, the cold shudder, the electric shock, which always reaches one, when the orator strikes out the true, the divine flash of eloquence.

Enough, however, and perhaps too much of this, for it was of his sacred eloquence that I intended to say a few words. He wrote his sermons, and laid his notes before him on the desk, but, in the delivery, he seemed never to use them. He appeared perfectly at home in the pulpit, as if born only to preach the gospel. His voice was neither loud nor high, yet his utterance was so perfectly distinct, that every word reached every ear with its melody, and he melted every heart with his fervid and overpowering pathos. His preaching was not like the fire, nor like the earthquake, nor like the mighty wind, exhibited to the vision of Elijah on the summit of the mount, but it was indeed the still small voice, heard from the Lord by the prophet, while sitting at its base. He seemed to be, as he truly was, a messenger sent by his Divine Master, with glad tidings of great joy.

Every one who hears of a distinguished man, wishes to know something of his personal appearance. I have never seen a portrait of Dr. Maxcy, and it is many years since I looked upon him, and yet so deeply are his features and expression engraven on my memory, that I am confident I could distinguish his face among thousands. His countenance was grave and dignified, but so tempered with benignity, that those who only casually saw him, were constrained to regard him as a model of benevolence and goodness. I believe, he seldom, if ever, laughed, but he often smiled, and his smile was delightful. All who saw him wished to hear him, and those who heard him once, were sure to wish to hear him again. It was impossible to behold his face without feeling assured that a highly gifted and finely regulated soul looked out upon the beholders from those interesting features.

I have thought, and now fully believe, that if Dr. Maxcy had lived in the age and country of the great Italian School of artists, when the exigencies of the art required some one to sit as a model before the painters, they would have selected him as the model for their consecrated portraits of Him, who, when on earth "spake as no man ever spake," and Raphael, or Michael Angelo, would have placed on the canvas the living lineaments of a minister of Christ, whose countenance it always seemed to me was no unapt representation of his Divine Master.

Dr. Maxcy's first address[1] to a graduating class after he became president of Brown University is here given. It will of itself interest many readers,

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[1] It is taken from the *Watchman and Reflector* for June 24, 1869. It was there reproduced from the *Baptist Register*, published in England. It was not mentioned in Dr. Elton's work, or in Guild's

and others, more especially because it is the production of a young man of twenty-five, who, from the dignified position of head of a collegiate institution of learning, addresses as counselor and adviser a body of men scarcely younger than himself: —

Charge delivered by President Maxcy to the graduates of the College, Rhode Island, September 4, 1793. — 2 Baptist Register, 557-560.

Advice from the young appears like an intrusion on the rights of age and experience. It is not, therefore, without the most anxious concern that I rise to address you; especially when I consider the splendid abilities of those great men who, on similar occasions, have stood in this place. They needed not for an apology the admonition of Paul, "Let no man despise thy youth."

The attachment to which your conduct has given birth forbids me to let you depart without expressing my solicitude for your welfare. This day presents to you a new scene of things. It brings you from the retreats of science, and places you on the theatre of action. It commences your public existence. As the first impressions which your abilities and conduct will make on the minds of men will be *lasting*, it will be for your interest to be careful that they be *favorable*. Errors in conduct, when you are first thrown on the public eye, will be critically noted, and, of consequence, will create prejudices which, in any subsequent period of life, a knowledge of your abilities would prevent. Hence you cannot be too solicitous after the advice of aged, experienced men. You cannot be too anxious to know your duty, nor too active to perform it. A fear to do wrong and a desire to do right are brilliant traits in the character of the young. In the first part of life, when our passions are winged with fire, we are too apt to despise counsel, and to follow our own rash resolutions. Hence we unavoidably run into errors, because destitute of that knowledge which nothing but experience can give, and careless of those rules of life which nothing but the wisdom of age can form, and nothing but the rashness of youth would regret.

When you engage in the businesses of life you will have to deal with men. The ideas you have formed in retirement, of the manners of the world and the principles of human action, it is probable are very erroneous. Time and experience only can correct them. What is commonly called the knowledge of the world, of which so many boast, is nothing more than the acquirement of its deceitful manners and the practice of its polite vices. To travel many countries, to see many people, these are highly desirable; but these, without reflection, without deep study and accurate observation, instead of making a man of merit, will only make a splendid fop. You must learn to read men as well as books, but read books first. Human nature is a regular, though complicated machine. It can be learned by its operations only. Unless you know the springs by which it is moved, you can never manage it to advantage. He will gain his point most effectually and govern men best, who possesses such a ductility of disposition as will enable him to enter into the circumstances, to survey in a true light the interests, and to realize the feelings of others. In society you will be connected with men of different characters, dispositions and pursuits. You will find many ignorant and unreasonable, many who are well informed, and a few religious; but none who are not fond of applause and desirous of superiority. If you can get into your hand the hopes and fears of men, you can do as you please.

Perhaps the splendid abilities and extensive acquirements of some may, on particular occasions, create a temporary discouragement, and deter you from that proficiency which could render you useful, though it might not gratify your ambition. But you will do well to remember that true greatness and real excellency consist neither in the excessive splendor, nor in the occasional displays of genius. Men whose souls are winged with lightning are ever soaring above the sphere of useful employment. The fierce ardor of their spirit disdains attention to

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"Life of Manning," etc., and it was not known to have been ever before published in this country. It was presented to the Journal for publication by "T. M.," a leading jurist, at that time one of the oldest living pupils of President Maxcy — a great admirer — and among the oldest living graduates of "Brown."

the ordinary duties and businesses of life, from which human prosperity and happiness principally result. They appear to be formed and designed for nothing but extraordinary occasions. The untamable wildness of their minds fits them to dwell in the tempest and whirlwind. Than envy these, rather envy the virtuous, good, honest man. Men who possess talents a little above mediocrity generally make the greatest proficiency in learning, and render it the most useful.

These benefits accruing from education are not confined to the present world. As they belong to the soul, they respect immortality. Since the capacity of the mind may be enlarged and its powers rendered more vigorous by exercise, it appears susceptible of an endless progression in improvement. Much is left to your own exertion. God has given you talents, but He has given them, as He has everything else, to be improved. Consider nothing as giving you a respectable superiority, but real learning and piety. Remember that all kinds of superiority not originating in these, are vain, transitory, uncertain; and that, if the causes which produce do not destroy them, death certainly will. But as learning and piety belong to the soul, they give a superiority that will afford permanent satisfaction, and increase as the soul progresses in existence. In your farther acquirements, therefore, in literature, consider yourselves as ennobling your natures, and already treading on the ground of immortality. That vain superiority which arises from false notions of honor, from nobility of birth or the possession of wealth, is truly contemptible; but that which arises from personal merit, from real excellency of character, is truly laudable and worthy the most exalted ambition.

Seek the greatest attainable things in this world, but always seek greater in the next. Should your situation ever be exalted, you will be the more exposed; you must therefore be the more humble and prudent. The road which leads to the temple of honor is steep and slippery. Would you enter there, be careful how you walk. The higher you ascend, the greater will be your disgrace and ruin, if you fall.

Never seek after fame, for if you deserve it it will follow you. Be your merit ever so great, yet you cannot expect true fame while envy can hope to injure you. "The sun of glory never shines but on the tombs of the great."

Never suffer yourselves to form a judgment either of men or things, while you are under the influence either of prejudice or passion. These put out the eyes of reason. Give due praise to merit, whether in your friends or enemies.

You come forward into life in an era full of events which will astonish and rejoice posterity. Man is rapidly ascending to that dignified station for which he was designed by the God of nature. The sun of liberty shines bright. His beams flame through imprisoned kingdoms, to enlighten the eyes and cheer the hearts of enslaved millions. That bright era begins to dawn, when peace shall diffuse her mild influence through every heart, subjecting every hostile passion, and cementing all nations in one great family of brothers. Then the heart of the soldier will not leap at the sound of war, nor the eye of the orphan float in tears for the loss of a father and kin in battle. Liberty will then be unconfined as air, and glorious as that heaven to which she tends. That fair goddess will descend in all her charms, and in one fostering grasp embrace every son of Adam. Perhaps you may live to see the glories of a kingdom whose duration will be that of eternity.

Here let me caution you against infidelity. Be not deceived merely because some great men have been. But if infidelity can boast great names, Christianity much greater. Amidst the blaze of evidence in favor of revelation it requires more faith to be an infidel than would make a complete Christian.

Be careful not to choose your particular mode of religion in too much haste. Bigots are as often made by a sudden adoption of particular sentiments as by superstition. Neither is worthy a wise man, and both are disgraceful to a Christian. The more you examine, the more reasons you will find for deferring an absolute decision respecting particular systems of religion; the more room you will find for charity, and consequently for true religion.

As soon as men fancy themselves infallible, imagining that God smiles on them and frowns on their neighbors, they exclude charity, and commonly, good manners. You will, too, remember that men's characters are not ascertained, in the sight of God, by the particular sentiments they adopt; for many men who have very bad heads have very good hearts.

Be strictly just in all your dealings with man. God has planted a sense of justice in your

natures. This you cannot violate without an essential injury to yourselves. No man can hurt another without hurting himself at the same time.

Do good to all, for by so doing you will do the greatest good to yourselves. Pursue a uniform course of virtuous conduct. This will unavoidably lead you to eminence. In such a country as this true merit cannot fail to distinguish you; for, like the sun, it will always carry its own light with it.

Time now requires me to part with you. I sincerely wish you much happiness, and shall rejoice to find that you are useful and ornamental to your country.

VIRGIL MAXCY was a younger brother of Dr. Maxcy, and was born in this town. He graduated at Brown University in September, 1804, and was for a while tutor in a private family at the South. He studied law in Baltimore, and settled in Anne Arundel County, near there, and became distinguished in his profession as an advocate. He was appointed Chargé d'Affaires to Belgium in 1835, which position he held for a number of years. After his return home he was appointed Solicitor of the United States Treasury. While attending the excursion on board the United States steamship Princeton, February 28, 1844, with President Tyler, Judge Upshur, and other members of the Cabinet, he was instantly killed by the terrible explosion of the guns which occurred at that time.

He was a brilliant speaker and an able jurist. He left two daughters, married, in Washington. He delivered an eloquent address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Brown University, September 4, 1833, which was published.

HON. ELISHA MAY was a distinguished citizen of this town who was often employed in public office, and whose name was always held in reverence by those who knew or remembered him. The records of the May family extend back to 1590, in which year one John May was born in Meyfield, England. About the year 1631 he came to this country, bringing with him two sons, John and Samuel, and they settled in Roxbury and Dorchester. The elder son, John, had eight children, of whom the seventh was named Elisha, and was born in 1669. This Elisha May left the family at Dorchester and went to Swansea with a brother. His son lived in that place and finally came from there to this town, bringing with him his son Elisha, the subject of this sketch, who was born in 1729.

Courteous and gentlemanly in his manners, and honorable and upright in his principles, he was universally esteemed. Intelligent and active in business, he was well qualified to fulfill the various offices to which he was elected. He discharged the various duties which devolved upon him with ability, and entire satisfaction to his constituents. He was elected to the Legislature over twenty times between 1778 and 1803, during the last thirteen years, consecutively, being a member of the Upper House. He was also several times chosen a member of the Provincial Congress at Watertown, and was at one time chosen a presidential elector. He was, in fine, one of the most valuable citizens of this town. He died November 15, 1811, in the eighty-

third year of his age. His wife was Ruth Metcalf, of Cumberland. His character is justly though briefly described by one who was personally acquainted with him. The following extract is from a discourse delivered at his interment by the Rev. John Wilder, then the pastor of the First Congregational Church in this town: —

"His memory will long be precious, not only to his near relatives and friends, but likewise to his intimate acquaintance, to his neighbors, to the religious society in this place, and to the inhabitants of the town. For he is the man whom his fellow-citizens have delighted to honor; nor was he unworthy their respect and confidence. For blessed with a sound mind, a retentive memory, a quick discernment of men and things, a polite address, an honest heart, and an education considerably above mediocrity, he was singularly qualified for public employment of various kinds. And his worth was early discovered; for at the time of the Revolutionary War he was an active and useful member both in the military and civil departments. Since that period he was employed, without opposition, as a legislator, or a counsellor, until he chose to retire. For about twenty-seven years in succession, one excepted, he was called to a seat in the Legislature, and chiefly in the upper house. For almost forty years together he has been moderator of the town meetings in this place; in which office he was equaled by few, and exceeded by none. He had the honor of being an elector of the President of the United States. As a magistrate throughout the Commonwealth, he did much business, and to very general satisfaction. He was justly celebrated both at home and abroad, for his wisdom in adjusting and settling differences between contending parties. As a politician he was a friend and disciple of Washington. As a man he was prepossessing and engaging. As a friend he was faithful and constant. As a neighbor he was kind and obliging. As a husband he was attentive and tender. As a parent he was pleasant and affectionate. As to his religion, he was a firm believer in the Christian system, and a very constant, attentive, and apparently devout attender on public worship all his life."

John Wilder May was born in this town, January 29, 1819. He was the son of Hon. Lemuel May and Esther Wilder May, daughter of Rev. John Wilder, pastor of the First Church here, and grandson of Hon. Elisha May. His father was a prominent public man, having held the various town offices, and he was for several years a representative in the Legislature, a member of the Senate and of the Governor's Council.

John Wilder May was educated for college at Andover and graduated at the University of Vermont, in Burlington. He and a classmate, after leaving college, undertook farming for a year or two as an experiment, but they soon abandoned the pursuit to prepare for a professional life. Mr. May kept school for two or three seasons in his native village and then commenced the

study of the law with Francis Hilliard, Esq., of Roxbury, which was at that time a part of Norfolk County. At Roxbury he later entered into partnership with a lawyer, continuing for several years, until he was elected "District Attorney for Suffolk County." This office he held for six years, discharging its duties with fidelity and vigor. On the resignation of Judge Chamberlain he was appointed "Chief Justice of the Municipal Court of Boston." He discharged the official duties of this laborious position with unquestioned integrity, impartiality, and good judgment. This office he held at the time of his death.

No man can put his hand upon any official act of Judge May's which can in any way impeach or sully his judicial purity. At the memorial services held after his death his memory was highly honored and his character duly appreciated by the Suffolk County Bar. His character and life present an example for the imitation of the young and aspiring.

While in practice at Roxbury he was appointed solicitor for that city and held the office for several years. He represented that city in the Legislature in 1867. After the annexation of Roxbury to Boston he formed a law partnership with Charles W. Story, Esq., which was dissolved in 1869, when Mr. May was elected "District Attorney for Suffolk." He died January 11, 1883, sixty-four years of age.[1]

"Judge May was a man of learning, ability, and the highest integrity and honor. He was laborious in the discharge of his duties, and died with the respect of the public for the sincerity and purity of his life and official character."

He married Elizabeth Thurston Farnham, of Bangor, Maine, by whom he had four children: Henry Farnham May, now a lawyer in Boston; Harriet Wilder May, who is associate treasurer of the Woman's Board of Missions in that city; John Lemuel and Elizabeth Farnham May, who all survive their parents.

I quote the "Resolution of the Suffolk Bar" at their memorial services on his death, which was offered by his former partner, Mr. Story, and unanimously adopted and which, from my personal knowledge of Judge May, I endorse, as embodying his professional character: —

Resolved, That in the death of John Wilder May, we recognize a serious loss to the community of which he was a most useful and valued servant, and to the Bar so long an honored member. He was a genuine man, of a high and noble nature, frank, upright, independent, simple, pure, cheerful, benevolent. His conversation was racy, instructive, and from the clearness and vigor of his conceptions most epigrammatic. His written works displayed not only mastery of language, but thoroughness of research, and remarkable power of statement. In the Councils of the Commonwealth, and of the city, he was conspicuous for solidity of understanding, strength in argument, and readiness in debate. Professionally, he was learned, able, and faithful, not aggressive, but in resisting aggression prompt and determined. In his capacity

[1] He had one brother, who died some years before his death, and an uncle, Seth May, who was a judge of the Superior Court of Maine many years.

as prosecuting officer, he was energetic, eloquent, discreet, and efficient, and as a magistrate charged with onerous, important, and exacting duties, he was eminently wise, diligent, impartial, and considerate. He has left to us an example of which we may well be emulous, and for which we honor his memory.

He exhibited great zeal for his clients and, in a "manly, straightforward way," fought out every issue to its end. He was above tricks or meanness in striving for victory, deeming such things a disgrace to himself and his profession. He was especially kind to young men entering the profession of law, and merciful to young men whom he must judge for their first criminal offence. One said of him that "for thirty years he had known and realized that Judge May's character was such as to impress itself upon the community, so that men who never saw him had a positive conviction that he was an upright, fearless and honest man who could well fill any position to which he might be called." Another, after words of high praise, said an appropriate maxim for his tombstone would be: "A sound lawyer, a frank and a true man without cant or hypocrisy, a pure, conscientious, upright and incorruptible Judge."

Samuel Bartlett Parris was among the former physicians of this town, a young man who settled here in 1825. He was a son of Rev. Martin Parris, of Marshfield, Plymouth County, and Julia Drew, of Kingston, an adjoining town, and was born in the former place, January 30, 1806. He graduated at Brown University in 1821, at which institution his father had also graduated. He was a well-read and accomplished scholar and a young man of great promise. He studied medicine under the tuition of Dr. Paul L. Nichols, of Kingston, with whom he remained one year, and afterwards he spent about two years under the instruction of Dr. Samuel Bugbee, a distinguished and skilful physician of Wrentham. He then finished his professional education at the Harvard Medical School, where he received his degree on August 31, 1825, at the age of nineteen.

He soon settled in this town, at the Falls, and at the residence of Dr. Thomas Stanley, then deceased. There he died, September 21, 1827, aged twenty-one years, seven months, and twenty-two days, and thus all his attainments in literature, poetry, and professional science, with all the brilliant prospects of his life, were buried in an untimely grave. He was buried in the old cemetery on the site of the Central Church, but his remains were afterwards removed, by direction of his father, to Kingston. Abundant eulogies upon his character were tendered to his father after his death by those who knew him best. Dr. Bugbee, in whose family he remained so long as a student, said of him: "In our family he was profoundly loved by all. The immense stores of intellectual treasure which he had accumulated, and assorted for use, distanced, in my estimation, from all his equals in age, with whom I have ever had the fortune to be acquainted."

I conclude this sketch by applying to himself his closing remarks in his

essay on the "Remains of Henry Kirke White." He says: "His feelings appear to have been occasionally subjected to higher degrees of excitement, than human nature could endure with impunity. He lived much in a short time, and hence perhaps one reason why the resources of life were so soon exhausted. In him were united genius and application. Both contributed to give him an early niche in the temple of fame; both contributed to give him an early shroud in the mansions of the tomb."

Dr. Parris' "Remains," including selections from his poems and essays, were published after his death, by the author of this work, for circulation among his friends.

In Kettell's "Specimens of American Poets" the compiler has given a poem of Dr. Parris on a "Sprig of Juniper from the Tomb of Washington." I will give here a humorous one on the fall of a woodpile: —

LINES COMMEMORATIVE OF THE DOWNFALL OF MY WOODPILE.[1]

I was piling a great heap of wood,
And I nearly had finished my labours,
And it stood up, all handsome and good,
A source of surprise to the neighbours.

With joy I looked on it — (poor dunce!)
When but a few armfuls were lacking,
When, alas! the whole pile all at once
Came down with a terrible cracking.

My armful I dropped on the ground,
And gazed on the ruins astonished —
When, lo! a most wonderful sound,
My glaring imprudence admonished.

My genius, who stands at the helm,
And guides me with counsels sagacious,
Spoke out from the top of the elm,
With a count'nance smiling and gracious.

"My friend," she exclaimed with a smile,
"While to work you so ardently press on,
The sad overthrow of your pile
May teach you a very good lesson.

Reflect on your blunders with care —
And if these admonitions should reach you,
You will find it is better by far,
Than for fatal experience to teach you.

Remember, as long as you live,
That to ardent and high expectation,
You should not much confidence give,
When it rests on a slender foundation.

If such hope you should build up too high,
No matter how much you may prize it,
The very first gust, that comes by,
Will always be sure to *capsize* it.

[1] Written in December, 1826, at the age of twenty.

And listen, I pray you," said she;
"If you wish to escape tribulation,
You must faithfully hearken to me,
And build on a broader foundation.

When winter is roaring around,
This wood on your fire will be blazing,
And you 'll not care a fig for the sound
That the storm and the tempest are raising.

Thus Hope shall be glowing within,
And its warmth and its light shall not fail you.
When the sound of the storm shall begin,
And adversity's blast shall assail you.

Mourn not o'er the loss of your pains,
And do not be sullen and fretful —
It might have endangered your brains —
Of your good luck then be not forgetful.

Go on; muster up all your powers —
And build up two tiers all so clever —
In the course of a couple of hours
The work will be firmer than ever."

I did so, and found very soon,
That whenever such accidents happen,
It keepeth one's temper in turn
These sage cogitations to *clap in*.

So now I have made a good fire,
And taken my pen, ink, and paper,
To gratify this my desire
And give an account of the *caper*.

If there is a rhymster in town,
It is my desire he should know it,
That whenever a woodpile falls down,
It makes a good theme for a poet!

Samuel Robinson, M.D., the son of Ezekiel and Hannah Hutchins Robinson, was born in this town March 19, 1783, and lived here until about 1803. At that time he went to Hanover, N. H., to study his profession under the instruction of the celebrated Dr. Nathan Smith, a professor in Dartmouth College, and remained for two years. He commenced practice in Berkeley, which is near Taunton, but remained there only one year, and then removed to Indian Town, N. C., a place not far from Elizabeth City. He resided there for twenty years and became a distinguished physician and surgeon and acquired an extensive and lucrative practice.

An anecdote is related of him which shows him to have been a thoroughly kind-hearted and benevolent man, though the story had an amusing ending. It came to his knowledge at one time that the leg of a certain man needed to be amputated, and that no one could be found to attend to the case because the man was poor and could not pay the required fee for such a service. On learning the fact Dr. Robinson traveled a distance of fifty miles, per-

formed the operation, and declined to receive any compensation whatever. Upon the advent of twin boys into this family some time later the grateful wife and mother bestowed the name of Samuel upon one of the infants and Robinson upon the other in honor of the benefactor.

While in North Carolina Dr. Robinson's health failed, and he tried constant and continued change of air and scene in the hope of benefiting it. He traveled quite extensively through the Carolinas, Virginia, the Middle and New England States. He finally came to Pawtucket and Providence, in the vicinity of which places he for a time took up his residence. His health continuing broken, he was not able to follow his profession, and he devoted much time to the study of geology and mineralogy.

He made a collection of minerals, many of them being quite valuable, and in 1825 he published a work entitled "A Catalogue of American Minerals." This was an octavo volume of three hundred and sixteen pages. It contained a full list of all the minerals then known in the United States and British Provinces. With each one the county, town, and neighborhood where it was found to exist were distinctly marked, and the book was thus an excellent guide to any practical geologist.

Dr. Robinson resided in various places in this vicinity, as has been stated, though his home was with his brother, Mr. Dan Robinson, in this town. At the end of some two or three years after his return to the North, on the approach of cold weather, he found it necessary to go to a warmer climate. He went therefore to St. Augustine, Fla., where he died after a few months' residence, February 17, 1827, in the forty-fourth year of his age.[1]

It is proper that some notice should be taken of two natives of the town, who distinguished themselves in a former generation as singers, teachers, and composers of music, and compilers of musical works, and who were well known in their day. They were sons of Daniel and Mary Read, and were descended from a family long settled here in the south part of the town, that part still known as "the Read and Ide neighborhood."

Joel Read was born August 16, 1753. He was well educated for that age, well informed on general subjects, and well known to his townspeople of the age which has recently passed away. He was for a long time in public life, taking an active part in the affairs of the town. His services were often secured in the offices of selectman, assessor, treasurer, etc., and his handwriting may be found on many pages of the public records. He lived on a farm — the old homestead of his family — as an agriculturist, but much of his time was occupied in other pursuits. He was a surveyor and conveyancer, and acted as a magistrate for a long period. He also represented the town in the Legislature for some years, from 1806 to 1813 inclusive, with the

[1] His gravestone there has recently been seen by a resident of Attleborough. "The inscription includes a tribute to him as a man and Christian and physician." — *Attleboro Advocate.*

exception of 1807. He served for a time in the Revolutionary War, and was wounded in one of the battles near New York.

He removed from this town towards the close of his life, and resided in Pawtucket for a number of years. He finally returned to his native place, where he died January 27, 1837, upwards of eighty-four years of age. He was twice married. His first wife was Chloe, daughter of Deacon Jonathan Stanley, of this town, by whom he had nine children, five daughters and four sons, most of whom lived to maturity. In his father's family there were eleven children, all of whom lived to adult years.

But Joel Read was best known as a musician. He took the lead of the choir in the church at West Attleborough from early life till age disqualified him for the duties. In his intercourse with the public he was pleasant and agreeable in his manners — intelligent and social. I am told by those who knew him that as a singer he had a fine and well-trained voice. He was an enthusiast on the subject of music. In the winter season during the active part of his life he was engaged in teaching common schools during the day and singing schools in the evening, not only in this, but in the neighboring towns — in the western part of this State, and in various towns also in the State of New York. While introducing his works to the public he often extended his excursions to the remote settlements of that State.

He was a composer of music — the author of several popular tunes which were published. In 1806 he published a collection of sacred music for the use of churches and schools, under the title of "The American Singing Book; or, a New and Easy Guide to Psalmody." The work passed through at least two editions — and probably several more — during the lifetime of the compiler, and was extensively circulated, and used by singing schools and church choirs in this vicinity. In fact, it was the only work of the kind known here for many years, and educated a whole generation of singers. It contained many tunes composed by his brother Daniel, and he himself was the author of several of them, which were well known at the time and highly popular. Among them were Consolation and others.

The first edition, as stated, was published in 1806, the second in 1812. In the second edition he changed the title and called it "The New England Selection; or, Plain Psalmodist." It was printed in Boston by Manning & Loring. In the preface he says: "The first edition met with a rapid sale and encourages him to publish the second, which he trusts is not inferior in point of merit, and hopes it will meet the general approbation of the public." This work was used almost exclusively for more than thirty years in this vicinity, in Worcester County, in the more western part of this State, in various parts of New York, and doubtless in many other places.

Daniel Read, a younger brother of Joel Read, was born here November 16, 1757. He was in Sullivan's Expedition in Rhode Island in 1778 during

the Revolution, in the ranks of the regiment from the northern part of this county. Before the close of the Revolutionary War he removed to New Haven, Conn., where he settled for life. Here he formed a partnership with Amos Doolittle, an engraver, under the firm name of Doolittle & Read, and engaged in trade, principally a bookselling and publishing business.

Among other works published by them was a Musical Magazine, a periodical which appeared monthly. The typographical execution of the work was, for that age, highly creditable to the publishers and its appearance was even beautiful. This was probably the first periodical on music published in the country, at least the first known to the author. A great number of the musical compositions were originally composed by Read himself. Many of the most approved tunes were afterwards collected and published in a single volume called The American Singing Book, the fourth edition of which was issued January 24, 1792. It acquired a good reputation and secured an extensive circulation in the New England States. It included forty-seven original tunes by Mr. Read, with a supplement containing five more. In 1793 he published the Columbian Harmonist in three parts.

The musical compositions of Daniel Read were far more numerous than those of Joel and of an earlier date. In the Federal Harmony (Second Part), published in 1792, are six pieces by Read; the Worcester Collection of Sacred Harmony, 1788, contained sixteen pieces; the Village Harmony, published in Exeter, N. H., has nineteen; and in Lowell Mason's Collection may be found several tunes by him. A third brother, William, was also a teacher of psalmody in both Attleborough and Pawtucket and a composer of music, but not to such an extent as the others.

The best evidence of the merit of the compositions of the Read Brothers is in the fact that so many of them were selected and republished in subsequent collections of music for church choirs. Many of these tunes are in use at the present day. The names of Lisbon and Sherburne and Calvary, of Greenwich and Judgment, of Exaltation and Victory, of Winter and Windham are familiar as household words to our own generation of church singers, and some at least of these tunes are found in almost every collection of sacred music.

Daniel Read married, in New Haven, Mary Sherman, one of that family so distinguished in Connecticut. Their four children were George Frederic; Handel, who lived to quite an advanced age; Nathan Sherman Read, who became a clergyman; and one daughter, Mary White Read, who married Jonathan Nicholson. A son of the youngest brother, William, above mentioned, went also to New Haven, and descendants of the families are residing in that city at the present time. Daniel Read died in 1836, in the eightieth year of his age. Many descendants of these Reads are also living in this town.

WILLIAM STILLMAN STANLEY, M.D., was born in this town, January 17, 1803. His father was Dr. Thomas Stanley, of the Falls village; his mother,

Mary Norton, also of this town, and they were married by Rev. Dr. Gano. His grandfather was William Stanley, who married Zilpah, daughter of Captain Mayhew Daggett. He attended the classical academy in West Attleborough kept by Rev. Joseph Wheaton, of Rehoboth, and was there fitted for college. He graduated at Brown University in the class of 1825. He studied medicine with Dr. Usher Parsons, of Providence, and acquired a practical knowledge of his profession with Dr. Hezekiah Skinner, of Mansfield, entering into partnership with him and remaining so associated for two years. At the end of that time, 1829, an opening occurred at Mamaroneck, Westchester County, N. Y., to which place he removed and speedily built up a large and lucrative practice. He was eminently acceptable and prosperous, and continued in that place in full practice for the long period of forty-seven years.

In 1876, his health having failed, he removed to Wilmington, Del., and two years later to Philadelphia, Penn., where he lived until 1883. During that year he removed to Westerly, R. I., where he had his residence during the remainder of his life. In June of the following year, 1884, he attended the Commencement exercises of his loved university, and from Providence he came to his native town and visited his old homestead, greeting once more the few living relatives and very few living friends of his youthful days. From here he went to Wrentham to visit some nieces residing there, and while with them was taken ill and died after only four days of sickness, on July 11, 1884. "Thus suddenly ended the life of a good man."

In May, 1832, Dr. Stanley was married to Elizabeth Thompson Mitchell, of White Plains, N. Y., who died at Germantown, Penn., August 18, 1883. He left no children. He was a man of integrity in all his dealings with his fellow-men, familiar and cordial in his intercourse with his friends and neighbors, and he enjoyed the confidence of the community in which he lived.

The following is quoted from the Necrology of Brown University for 1884–85: —

"In his medical profession, as in his character, he was the worthy son of a worthy sire, his father, Dr. Thomas Stanley, having been for many years a prominent physician, and highly esteemed man in Attleborough. Dr. Stanley, the subject of this notice, had the esteem and confidence of the people, not only of his own town, where he so long lived, but for many miles around in other towns. His urbanity of manners, and kindness of heart, united with his clearness of intellect, and his medical knowledge and skill, rendered him both a popular and a successful physician."

Dr. Ira Barrows, the son of Ezra and Beebe Peck Barrows, was born in this town, November 18, 1804. He remained in his country home until he reached the age of sixteen, at which time he was fitted for college and entered Brown University, where he graduated in 1824 at the age of twenty. He obtained his medical education at the excellent school of Harvard, taking his

degree in 1827. He thus by thorough courses of study laid the foundation of true knowledge so especially needed in his profession, and made himself worthy of the confidence of his fellow-men and of the success which afterwards attended him.

He practised during many of his earlier years in Pawtucket, where he was associated with Dr. Manchester. While there he united with the Congregational church, of which Rev. Dr. Blodgett was for so many years the loved and revered pastor, and became one of its deacons, retaining the office as long as he resided in that place. He remained in Pawtucket until 1837, when failing health compelled him to try change of scene and climate, and for a time he resided at the West. The weakness from which he suffered proved to be only temporary, his constitution being strong enough to conquer it, and he was able to resume his professional duties. In 1840 he returned to Pawtucket, but soon after removed to Providence, where he resided for more than thirty-two years "laboriously occupied nearly to the end." He died in that city October 14, 1882, having reached the advanced age of almost fourscore years. He married, February 5, 1833, Frances A., daughter of Oliver Bartlett, of Smithfield, R. I., and she, with two sons and two daughters, survives him.

His pastor said of him: "Dr. Barrows illustrated the truth that busy men may be relied on for many kinds of service, and that even in so arduous a profession there is time for Christian work and fellowship." He was "a man of integrity and consistent life. He loved his profession, and was conscientiously devoted to it. Yet whenever it was possible for him, he was an attendant at public worship. I have thought proper to dwell upon some simple facts in the history of our departed brother, not merely because of his sincere piety and excellence, but because of his vocation in life. The calling of a physician is one of great responsibility. It demands rare talents and the highest character. No one would wish to employ a physician who does not possess both, and no one has a right to trifle with life, by seeking counsel of the ignorant or the unprincipled. I may say that our friend, Dr. Barrows, though not lavish of words, and most unobtrusive in his demeanor, has brought spiritual comfort into the sick chamber, and helped others by his prayers in their sore need. In him religion was an everyday principle, which he was ready to apply to all the business of life. Nor should I fail to mention his kindness to the poor, and readiness to fulfill services often unpaid. We do well to cherish the memory of those who have served God in a laborious and self-denying profession, which ought to be held in high esteem, and to which we ought cheerfully to discharge our obligations as far as possible."

Dr. George Barrows, a younger brother of the above, was born May 12, 1815. The father, who was a farmer, died while he was a child. Afterwards his mother married Captain Jacob Ide, and he lived in this new home

until he was sixteen. At that time he entered a store, and subsequently attended Pawtucket Academy for two years. He was desirous of obtaining a good education, but, being out of health, he was unfitted to pursue his studies properly. At this juncture he went to Oberlin, Ohio, and entered the manual labor school there. During a few months in that institution "he developed a physical organization which carried him in after life through the constant strain and wear arising from the indispensable demands of his arduous profession. As a proof of the good results in his case of a system of labor and study combined, it is said of him that he volunteered with other "muscular fellow students" to cut a large part of the timber which was used in the erection of two of the present college buildings.

He entered Amherst College when twenty-one, and graduated there in 1840. He spent two years in Illinois, and then entered his brother's office, where he remained three years studying medicine. He also attended lectures at Pittsfield Medical College, and there received his diploma. About this time he became interested in homœopathy, and finally adopted that school of practice. In 1846 he opened an office in Taunton, the only physician of his school there at that time. After practising for some years he attended the Homœopathic Medical College in Philadelphia and received a diploma from that institution. During a period of more than thirty years he went in and out of hundreds of homes in the city of his adoption, "administering to the best of his ability and skill for the wants of his patients, to the poor and indigent as to the more favored. All received his large-hearted sympathy." He gave instruction also to a large number of students, upon whom in the commencement of their practice he bestowed kindly and timely aid, and a number of young men were associated with him.

In 1848 he married Jane E. Wells, of Otis, by whom he had one son. They both survived him. He died January 19, 1878, from paralysis, the result of exposure on a professional journey of several miles taken on a stormy night. He was at the time of his death the oldest medical practitioner in Taunton. One said of him: "The community in which he has long resided mourn the loss of a kind friend, neighbor, physician, and estimable fellow citizen, who has suddenly departed in the prime of life, and in the midst of usefulness." His pastor, Dr. Blake, said: "A Christian physician, whose principles flow into his profession, is a blessing to the community, which we do not appreciate until it is removed."

Hon. Ebenezer Daggett, who died while a member of the Senate from Bristol District, affords the example of a life worthy of imitation by his fellow-citizens. He was the youngest son of Colonel John Daggett, whose life has been previously noticed, and was born April 16, 1763. Few men in this town have devoted so large a portion of their time to the public service. He held a commission of the peace for nearly thirty years, and honorably discharged its most important duties. He served the town at various times

in the capacity of selectman and town clerk, for upwards of twenty years. He represented the town several years in the General Court. A large part of the last thirty years of his life was occupied in some public employment. In various ways he rendered himself serviceable to his fellow-citizens. In the spring of 1831 he was elected a member of the Senate from this district. At the succeeding November election he was rechosen to the same office, and while in the discharge of the honorable and responsible duties of this station he was called by the order of Providence to close his life, at Boston, on the fourth of March, 1832, in the sixty-ninth year of his age.

Possessed of natural abilities above mediocrity, which he had improved by self-education, he always directed them to useful purposes. Plain and unassuming in his manners, mild and uniform in his disposition, he had won the confidence of his fellow-citizens, but never sought after the honors which were bestowed upon him. Guided by fixed and pure principles, he was upright and honorable in all his dealings with his fellow-men; and preserved a character of unsullied integrity through a long and active life. He was regarded by his neighbors as their father and adviser. If they were in difficulty or doubt, they came to him for counsel and assistance, and both were freely offered. So great was their confidence in his integrity and judgment that he was generally the chosen umpire in cases of controversies between his fellow-citizens. He was, in fine, in the true and enlarged sense of the word, a *useful* man. His life, indeed, as has been justly remarked of him, affords an encouraging example of the truth that respectable talents united with integrity and industry will raise a man to honor and usefulness.

He was, too, a kind-hearted and liberal man, and in this connection a pleasant fact was recently told of him by a son of Elder Read, at one time pastor of the Baptist church at North Attleborough: "Mr. Daggett was an intimate friend of my father's, and with his wife frequently visited him. He never went away without leaving some money, generally three dollars, and placed quietly under a book." Such was the manner of Mr. Daggett's giving — in that true spirit of charity which possesses only the desire to help those in need, not "to be seen of men," and shows a just and thoughtful consideration for the feelings of those assisted.

The following remarks on the character of the deceased are extracted from a funeral discourse delivered at Attleborough, April 22, 1832, by Rev. Mr. Ferguson: —

"Where is that venerated husband and father, that highly esteemed and useful citizen, who scarce four months ago, stood bending under the bereavement of Providence, an unexpected, yet quiet and submissive mourner[1] in the house of the Lord. Alas! he has gone down to the grave unto his son, mourning. The last opportunity which I enjoyed of conversing with our

[1] For the sudden and violent death of a beloved son.

departed friend, was on the eve of his leaving home to attend to his official duties in the Legislature, as a member of the Senate. I mention this circumstance, because it was then abundantly evident, that those official honors, which are generally sought as the rewards of successful competition, may come to be regarded as a burden rather than an honorable distinction. During our conversation he lamented, that official duties obliged him at such a time to leave home, and to mingle in scenes so foreign to the state of his mind. He regretted that the choice of the people had not fallen upon some other candidate, and remarked, that such scenes were better adapted to gratify those who were young and aspiring, than the aged and afflicted. It is known to you all, that from that tour of duty, he never returned. To an observer it must have been evident, that to commune with his own heart — to mingle his sympathies with those of his family, and to prepare himself for his own great change, would have been more congenial to his mind, than the halls of legislation, and the investigation of our political relations. In his case, moreover, political employments had long ceased to be a novelty. He was emphatically a public man. Twenty years of his life had been occupied in superintending the interests of the town. Twice he was elected to the Senate; — and perhaps no man among us has been more called upon to administer upon the estates of the deceased and to act as the guardian of the orphan. The general character which he sustained through life was that of uniformity, uprightness, and moderation. In the hottest strife of parties, although a public and a decided man, he never could be regarded as a partisan. He had been an actor, and in some respects a public character from the time of the Revolution; but through all the changes of the eventful times in which he lived, he continued to the last to stand forth before his fellow-citizens, in the character of an honest, upright, and consistent man.

"His last sickness commenced on the twenty-third of February. He had, the day before, in apparent health, attended the centennial celebration of the birth of Washington, and walked in procession with the other members of the Senate; but all beyond was his dying sickness. Early on the succeeding morning, he was violently attacked with a fever, which terminated in death on the fourth of March.

"I have felt it my duty, in view of his public character, to enter into details which, in other circumstances, might have been inexpedient. In the relations of life; in his intercourse between man and man; in the maintenance of a character for uniformity, uprightness, and self-possession, his works praise him, and he is with us for an example. In all that is beyond, it is ours to consign him to his grave, and to his God. Happy would it be for our community, were our party divisions always controlled by men of equal mildness and moderation, — happy would it be for our community, did all our public men manifest an equal regard for the maintenance of order, morals, and religion."

Mr. Daggett married, September 3, 1797, Sally Maxcy, of this town. They had twelve children, eight of whom lived to maturity: Lydia Maxcy, born October 16, 1802, married Capron Peck, of this town, and died February 2, 1882; John, the writer of this book; Ebenezer, born May 14, 1807, and lost as his ship was coming into Boston Harbor in 1831; Harvey Maxcy, born June 10, 1809, and died September 28, 1886; Amy Ide, born November 24, 1811, married John McClellan, of Sutton, this State, and now resides in Worcester; Marcy Shepard, married Erastus D. Everett, of Boston, and died November 23, 1843, aged twenty-nine years and ten months; and Handel Naphtali and Homer Micajah, twins, born January 27, 1821.

Rev. Jacob Ide, D.D., was a descendant of Nicholas Ide, — the immigrant ancestor, — who came to this country previous to 1645 and settled in Rehoboth as early as April 9 of that year. His son, Lieutenant Nicholas Ide, came to this town about 1696, with seven children, of whom one was named Jacob. The subject of this sketch was the fifth of the same name in direct descent. He was born March 29, 1785, in the south part of the town, the "Read and Ide neighborhood." His mother was a daughter of Elijah Kent, of Rehoboth, a descendant of one of the early settlers of that ancient town. His father was a farmer, as his ancestors had been ever since their coming to this country. He himself worked on his father's farm till he entered college. At an early age he became anxious to obtain a liberal education in order to qualify himself for the ministry. His father did not encourage him much in his desire, for, limited by the necessity for rigid economy, he had not the means to furnish his son with many facilities for preparing himself for college. The boy therefore resorted to many self-denials and laborious means to acquire the necessary preparation. He improved every opportunity to study at home, employing every spare hour, every leisure moment he could gain from the farm labors, and in that way did much toward fitting himself for entering the university. He says himself he "rose up early in the morning, and sat up late at night," to gain time for study. He traveled three or four times a week to the residence of Rev. Nathan Holman — a distance of about four miles from his home — for instruction in the languages, following this course for a year, and this was his only outside means of preparation. That he could endure such a mental and physical strain in addition to his daily work proves the truth of the statement that "he had an exceptionally good constitution, and was a model of strength and vigor."

At this time he was the athlete of his neighborhood and various incidents have been related by himself and others regarding his strength and skill. It is said his father had at one time an exceedingly wild and vicious colt, whom no one could manage. Young Ide quietly took the matter in hand, mounted the colt, who at once began kicking, rearing, and plunging in mad attempts to throw the fearless rider, who, however, stoutly maintained his seat until the animal, "wearied and discouraged with his unavailing efforts, succumbed,"

completely subdued. Tradition further says that upon one occasion, when the sudden illness of his father required a physician to be speedily summoned, Jacob mounted this same steed and, "instead of following the circuitous course of the road, took to the fields," and leaped the fences, drawing a "bee line" to the doctor's door. This determination to ride over, not to go around, difficulties was the keynote of his success in whatever he undertook and enabled him to overcome obstacles in his early career which would have utterly discouraged a boy of less resolute character than himself. The anxieties and struggles over "ways and means" were not in his case so great disadvantages as they might have been to many others. He studied thoroughly his tasks, he aimed to be accurate in everything he studied, his mind was clear and vigorous, and he was persevering and devoted to the duties of the moment. Hence he became in after life a close student and a deep thinker.

He entered Brown University in 1805, at the age of twenty, graduating in 1809, with the highest honors of his class. He studied theology for a time with his future father-in-law, Dr. Nathaniel Emmons, and then entered the theological school at Andover, where he graduated 1812. He preached for a time at East Abington, Mass., and at York, Maine, and then at Portsmouth, N. H. Here, though discouraged over himself and distrusting his own abilities as a preacher, he attracted the favorable notice of Daniel Webster, who heard him several times, and who, it is said, "used sometimes to rise and stand during the sermon, keeping his large eyes fixed upon the preacher."

From Portsmouth Mr. Ide came to Boston and was assistant for Dr. Griffin for a few weeks. About this time his health failed and he was obliged to cease all labor, and there was considerable uncertainty as to whether he would ever again be able to preach. In two years' time, however, he was so far recovered that he accepted a call from the church and society in West Medway, this State. He was ordained and installed there November 2, 1814, and this became his first and last pastorate. For fifty-one years he discharged all the duties of pastor, but in 1865 he was relieved of ministerial responsibility, though continuing senior pastor until his death.

In 1815 he married Mary, youngest daughter of Dr. Emmons, of Franklin, who survived him. She was a woman whose different temperament was a most happy complement to his character, and a continued source of inspiration to him. "Their home was a fountain of Christian charities, and a place of large and generous hospitalities." For more than sixty years they lived and worked together. They had eleven children, nine of whom died before the father's decease. Two sons survived him. Of these Jacob, Jr., a graduate of Amherst College, is now, as he has been for many years, the genial, popular, and acceptable pastor of the Congregational church at Mansfield Centre. All who in any way come under his influence must agree that a generous portion of his father's mantle has fallen upon him. The

second son, Alexis W., also entered the university, and at one time had a pastorate at Stafford Springs, Conn., but for a number of years previous to his father's death he refused all offers of settlement, that he might devote himself to the care of his parents in their old age. The daughter who reached maturity, Mary, became the wife of Rev. Charles T. Torrey, of Scituate. For assisting fugitive slaves he was incarcerated in a Maryland prison, where he died May 9, 1840, aged only thirty-three. Mrs. Torrey died a number of years since.

In 1827 his college bestowed upon Mr. Ide the honorary degree of S.T.D. He was eminent both for his knowledge and his faculty of imparting it, and he was repeatedly urged to accept the professorship of theology in the Bangor Seminary. Such a position would have been congenial to him and he would have filled it well, but he was bound to his people by the most affectionate ties, and he chose to live and labor and die among them. From the commencement of his ministry almost his life was a constant struggle with ill health, yet by care and regular habits he prolonged his life through nearly a century — the first century of his country's independence. His countenance indicated feeble health, but by his uniformity of life he was enabled to accomplish an amount of labor which seems incredible. During his long pastorate he spoke to his people "five thousand messages of life," and stood eight hundred times by "the open grave," and his wise words of counsel and consolation were always theirs at need. He served thirty years on the school committee, and was among the most public-spirited citizens of his community.

He was a leader in all moral reforms; an earnest and consistent advocate of total abstinence years before the temperance reform was launched. An incident related of him at the time of his graduation from college shows that the spirit of temperance moved within him actively and practically at an early age. The custom then prevailed for valedictorians to supply liquors for the class suppers. Mr. Ide courteously declined to follow this fashion, but offered a fitting equivalent. Some of the class took offence and when the valedictory address was to be given would not rise. "The valedictorian was ready for the emergency. Standing a little more erect, he quietly surveyed them and said: 'A wise man sometimes gets angry; but anger resteth only in the bosom of fools.'" Mr. Ide was, too, a pioneer in the temperance cause, and lived to rejoice over some of its greatest triumphs. He was a trustee of Amherst College for over twenty-five years, and for several years editor of *The Christian Magazine*. His published discourses were numerous: ordination and funeral sermons, and occasional sermons and addresses, more than forty in number. He also edited and published, in seven octavo volumes, the writings of Dr. Emmons, including a memoir of the great man's life by himself, and in this "did great and lasting service to the science of theology in interpreting that princely theologian." He lived a very studious life, filling his whole career with constant labor even to its latest period.

Dr. Ide, like many clergymen before seminaries were numerous, received students of theology into his family.[1] He thus prepared over forty young men for the ministry, and he established an unusual reputation as an instructor. He owned a farm which he carried on in connection with his ministerial duties. It is related that during a certain haying season two students, farmers' boys, "proposed to go out and show the men how to mow." Dr. Ide accompanied them and presently took up a scythe and "struck in" after them. They soon found him getting "uncomfortably near," and were obliged to acknowledge that he was as well qualified to give them lessons in mowing as in theology. An instance has been told of a jealous neighbor of his youthful days in this town who hired young Ide to help him mow a meadow, ungenerously withholding the fact that he intended a trial of skill between them. The unsuspecting youth mowed on hour after hour, but, when the real state of affairs became manifest, instead of being "tired out," as was hoped, he "increased the number and vigor of his strokes," to the speedy discomfiture of his employer, who confessed his purpose and allowed himself fairly beaten. These anecdotes show that the "child was the father of the man," for in after years no amount of physical debility could quell Dr. Ide's ever-youthful, undaunted spirit, or quench the undying flame of fresh enthusiasm within him.

In November, 1864, the fiftieth anniversary of his settlement was celebrated, on which occasion he delivered the historical address, furnishing many experiences of his pastorate. There was a large attendance of clergymen from near and far who detailed the services of the aged pastor, and bestowed upon him the honors he had so justly won by the faithful labors of a half-century. Several original poems were prepared for the occasion; one of some length by Hon. Charles Thurber and another by Rev. William M. Thayer, who was well known to many of our townspeople. There was a great gathering of people and Dr. Ide was the recipient of many tributes of respect and veneration from his numerous and distinguished friends. In this age of change, when the action of the churches constrains us to bestow the name applied to our Pilgrim fathers upon our own clergymen, who have indeed become pilgrims upon the earth, traveling from place to place, it is pleasant and profitable to contemplate such a pastorate as this — a lifelong and an ideal one.

Rev. John W. Harding, of Longmeadow, in his discourse at the funeral of Dr. Ide says: "As a preacher, Dr. Ide was earnest, clear, instructive.

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[1] In the next parish was settled Rev. David Sanford, Jr., son of its first pastor, and a student under Dr. Ide's tutelage. He was a member of Brown University, near whom it was my fortune while in college to room, and with whom I was on terms of great intimacy. In looking back over the long interval of years from that period to this day I cannot but drop a tear of friendship over the grave of one of the most amiable, sincere, and benevolent men I ever met. If ever there was a disinterested love for fellow-man, it lived in the bosom of David Sanford.

Without the peculiar brilliancy of descriptive or imaginative power, or forceful sway of a magnetic oratory, he had a simple, manly way of handling vital truths and grappling with practical issues, that interested his hearers, aroused their moral sense, impelled them to decision, and helped them towards holy living. He was deliberate and impressive without the accessories of rhetoric; a strong and judicious preacher." As a man he was thoroughly genuine, honest, manly. He was gentle, yet strong; full of merriment, but truly sympathetic; a wise counselor; "a son of consolation"; cautious, yet bold. "He never attempted to cross a bridge before he came to it, and he never went around an emergency. It was one of his maxims that a man can say anything that ought to be said, 'if he says it right.' Another was: 'You can do what you have a mind to, if you won't say anything about it.'" He was a man of remarkable prudence and self-control. It was characteristic of a man whose persistent purpose was to subjugate himself to say as he did after he had passed his eightieth year, "I have got the hardest job on hand I have ever had to do: *I have got to take care of an old man.*"

In the course of some remarks made at the fiftieth anniversary celebration, Dr. Parks,[1] of Andover, in a few suggestive lines, presented a condensed, but completed picture of Dr. Ide's life. In this he said: "Thus does the influence of a good man diffuse itself through the community, and a faithful preacher, even if he be an invalid, is a city set upon a hill which cannot be concealed. Dr. Ide has been an invalid through his entire ministerial life; but by his example in his parish, by his judicious and thoughtful sermons, by the essays and discourses which he has published, by the volumes which he has edited, by the young men whom he has educated for the ministry, he has exerted an influence which has been felt, and will continue to be felt, in distant parts of our own land, and on the other side of the sea."

Dr. Ide died January 5, 1880, aged ninety-four years, nine months, and six days. His funeral was attended by a numerous assembly of clergymen, who united in rendering fitting tributes of respect to the venerable, excellent man and minister. With solemn and impressive ceremonies, borne by friendly hands and followed by a community of mourners, this good man was laid away to his rest, among the people he so tenderly loved, with whom and for whom he had labored so long and so faithfully, even through the years of two generations of men.

Ezekiel Gilman Robinson, D.D., LL.D., the son of Ezekiel and Cynthia (Slack) Robinson, was born in this town March 23, 1815. He was "a lineal descendant of George Robinson, one of the original purchasers from the Indians of the town of Rehoboth," and one of the proprietors of the Rehoboth North Purchase. Previous to 1730 six of the name, descendants of

[1] A college classmate of the author, and a man who was always greatly admired by him. — Editor.

George, of Rehoboth, had settled in this town. Other members of Dr. Robinson's family have been eminent. "Several members of his grandmother's family were prominent physicians. His uncle, Dr. Samuel Robinson (mentioned elsewhere), was one of the earliest mineralogists of this country. His sister, Ruth S. Robinson (several years his senior and now 88 years old), who survives him, is a highly accomplished woman, and was for many years Principal of Townsend Female Seminary in Massachusetts, and afterwards, until the breaking out of the Rebellion, Principal of the Female Seminary at Norfolk, Va." She still occupies the homestead estate of upwards of one hundred acres, in the extreme southwestern part of the town. The old family mansion was burned down in 1819, and immediately replaced by the present house. Many important and no doubt most interesting family papers were, it is said, consumed in that fire.

"In his boyhood Dr. Robinson enjoyed the ordinary advantages for education then open to him and early gave evidence of a superior mind. From the common school he went to Day's Academy in Wrentham, Mass., then to the academy at Pawtucket, and finally to the Institution at New Hampton, New Hampshire, where he was prepared for college." He entered Brown University in 1834, and was graduated with honor in 1838. Having chosen the ministry as his profession, he entered the theological seminary of his denomination at Newton, this State, where he graduated in 1842. During that same year he accepted a call to a church in Norfolk, Va., and remained there until 1845; during the years 1843 and 1844 holding also the position of Chaplain of the University of Virginia. In 1845 he returned to Massachusetts and became the pastor of a church in Cambridge. He remained there but a year, and then removed to Covington, Ky., where he held the position of Professor of Hebrew in the theological seminary in that place. He discharged the duties of this position "with fidelity and zeal" until his resignation, which occurred in 1848. From 1849 until 1852 he was pastor of the Ninth Street Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. "In this pastorate he was faithful and successful, and left behind him an abiding influence."

In 1852 he became Professor of Theology in Rochester Theological Seminary, and "during the first year of his professorship in Rochester he delivered in the First Baptist Church a series of discourses on modern skepticism, which attracted large congregations." In 1853 the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was bestowed upon him by his alma mater, and in 1872 that of Doctor of Laws. The latter he also received from Harvard University upon the occasion of the celebration of its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary in 1886. He retained his theological professorship for eight years, and then, in 1860, was elected president of the seminary. This was a position which he was in every way most admirably adapted to fill, because of his unusual talents and attainments, and his previous experiences in other insti-

tutions of learning. He filled it "with distinguished ability and success," and his term of office as head of the seminary, which extended over a period of twelve years, was one of marked prosperity. It was with exceeding regret that his resignation of the presidency was accepted by those in charge of the official interests of that institution.

"Upon the resignation of Dr. Sears in 1867 as President of Brown University, Dr. Robinson was earnestly solicited to become his successor," but unsuccessfully. In 1872, because of the resignation of Dr. Caswell, it again became necessary to elect a president over that University, and the Corporation, recognizing Dr. Robinson's great abilities, not only in his peculiar department of learning, but in other and wider ranges, fixed upon him a second time as their choice. This time their solicitations met with success, and he accepted the Presidency, and became also Professor of Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics. There was not in the entire Baptist denomination a clergyman better fitted for such a high office, for to the intellectual and moral attainments essential he added the dignity and noble physical presence so desirable in all presidential officers, and of such special and peculiar importance in those at the head of institutions of learning, where example must join hands with precept, in order to accomplish the highest degree of development possible, in not only the minds and characters, but the manners of those who enter our great schools to be prepared for many of the most elevated stations of life.

"The announcement of his election called forth from various quarters the highest encomiums of his personal character and of his rare qualifications for an office that had been filled successfully by Manning, Maxcy, Messer, Wayland, Sears, and Caswell. Previous to the election to the Presidency Dr. Robinson visited Europe, accompanied by his family, and spent a year traveling and pursuing special studies."

"He was most cordially welcomed at the University, and the commencement of his official duties was marked by enthusiasm. In his opening address before the members of the corporation, faculty, and students, he struck the keynote of his coming administration. 'The duties of this office now assumed impose grave responsibilities, but they are duties not lightly assumed. They are not fully unknown or untried. They are entered upon with reliance on that Providence which shapes institutions and men alike. It is not forgotten that great, and good, and devout men have stood in this place. May the same spirit rule in this institution which has so deeply impressed itself on its affairs and made the university what it now is. We shall ever bear in mind that the aim of the college should be the development and improvement of the whole man, including his physical, intellectual, and moral nature.'"

The records of the college, during the seventeen years while he remained its head, prove the choice which fell upon him to have been a most fortunate

one for its interests. While president "he lectured at the Andover Theological Seminary for a time, after the retirement of President and Professor E. A. Park, D.D. (B. U., 1826), and there again made his impression as a teacher of theology. He lectured on 'Preaching' before Yale University. "In 1877 he was elected President of the American Baptist Missionary Union. This distinguished honor he received for three successive years, when he declined a further election. In 1880 he was made an honorary member of the Rhode Island Baptist Social Union, being the first and only one ever elected to this honor."

Dr. Robinson resigned his presidency in 1889,[1] and for several years preached and lectured in various parts of the country, having meanwhile temporary residences in Boston, Brooklyn, and Philadelphia. He also delivered an annual course of lectures in the Crozer Theological Seminary. At its opening he became Professor of Ethics and Apologetics at the Chicago University, "ranking as senior professor" and lecturing "during two quarters of the year." He had completed his work for the first quarter of the present year about Easter time, and expected to return to his duties in the autumn should his health allow. His health began to fail some time since and for some months his disease was known to be mortal, but the end came more speedily than was anticipated. He at last failed rapidly and went to the Boston City Hospital for treatment, where he died June 13, 1894, "aged 79 years, 2 months and 21 days." His funeral services were held in the First Baptist Church at Rochester, N. Y., conducted by President Taylor of Vassar College and President Harper of the University of Chicago; and he was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in that city in the family lot which contains the graves of several of his children. February 21, 1844, he married Harriet Richards Parker, "daughter of Charles and Catherine Packard Richards, and niece and adopted daughter of Deacon Caleb Parker, formerly of Roxbury, Mass." Their two daughters are deceased. Mrs. Robinson survives with a son, Dr. Gilman P. Robinson (Harvard, 1893), of Reading, this State.

"He published less than some people might expect from his great learning, his originality as a thinker, and his unusual power of expression. He apparently was not overfond of the pen. His sermons usually were unwritten. He wrote heads only, as a rule, for his lectures. Still, he contributed articles on theological and educational subjects for some of the leading quarterly reviews," and the various discourses, addresses, review articles, etc., which he did publish show the range of his scholarly abilities and acquirements. For five years — from 1859 to 1864 — he was editor of the *Christian Review*, and in the latter year he published a careful revision of Ryland's translation of

[1] His successor is Rev. E. B. Andrews, D.D., LL.D., formerly a professor at Brown University, but at the time of his election a professor at Cornell University. There are at the present time several young men and women from this town pursuing their studies at Brown.

Neander's *Planting and Training of the Christian Church*. In 1866 he published his work entitled *The Relation of the Church to the Bible*, and in 1883 his *Lectures on Preaching*, which were delivered in New Haven the previous year to the theological students of Yale University. In 1887 he published a work called *The Principles and Practice of Morality*. He had recently "prepared for publication a work on the *Evidences of Christianity*, and had done much writing of an autobiographical nature" for a biography being prepared by Professor Elias H. Johnson of the Crozer Theological Institute.

To his great intellectual gifts and his varied and profound acquirements in the realms of learning Dr. Robinson added the accomplishments of an eloquent and finished orator. Tall and of imposing presence, his appearance alone exerted a magnetic influence upon his audiences and this was intensified by his speech. He generally spoke directly to his hearers with no written words between himself and them, and his thoughts, couched as they always were in choice yet simple language, commanded earnest attention; and presented through the medium of a clear, musical, and highly cultivated voice, with a beauty and a grace peculiarly his own, they fixed themselves upon the minds and memories of all the listeners within its extensive range. He charmed and interested every one, whether young or old, ignorant or learned. Once heard as a public speaker he could not easily be forgotten, and the pleasure and profit of his discourses will long be remembered and gratefully recalled by those who were fortunate enough to have listened to them.

In the necrology of Brown University for 1893–94 were found several of the above-given quotations relating to Dr. Robinson. We copy the following interesting paragraph in full: "During his administration the University made substantial progress. New professorships were created, the means of instruction were enlarged, the elective courses of study were increased, the number of students grew, the University funds were augmented. New buildings were erected, namely, the John Carter Brown Library building, Slater Hall and Sayles Memorial Hall. An addition was made to Rhode Island Hall. Wilson Hall was begun. The Ladd Observatory was promised. The Jenks Museum was fully established (though more recently named from its director and benefactor, Dr. Robinson's classmate, Prof. J. W. P. Jenks), and the Museum of Classical Archæology was founded. Old University Hall was thoroughly renovated; in fact, built anew inside the old walls. Besides his regular services in the University and his baccalaureate sermons, which were pronounced before immense congregations, he delivered a series of lectures in Manning Hall on the history of intellectual philosophy and metaphysical science. He preached in the various pulpits of Providence and vicinity with singular acceptance, and on great and special occasions his services were solicited both far and near. He was easily one of the most

impressive personages in Providence while he resided there. His tall form, his strong, positive intellectual face, under its crown of snowy hair, at once declared him to be a person of distinction. When he spoke he had unusual powers of language. His great scholarship revealed itself, and his own strong and original thought stimulated others to think. His speech was incisive, his criticism keen and unsparing. Yet, when he spoke from the depths of his own convictions, when his tenderer feelings were stirred, when he pleaded the cause of divine love, no one could excel him in truly pathetic eloquence. He was a great pulpit orator. As a teacher, he taught his pupils to think, to go deeply down into the heart of things, to despise shams, to aspire for perfection. Although the student in his class may often have felt the keenness of his criticism, yet no officer more frequently was really patient with students when general discipline was concerned, or more ready to condone offences. He had a kind heart under the exterior that often may have seemed unsympathetic or reserved. The irritations of the annoying daily cares of a college President often fretted him and gave him a more imperious and forbidding exterior than really corresponded to the nature within. Possibly it may be found, when his life work is fully reviewed, that the happiest and most fortunate period of his life was that spent in Rochester. The influence which he has had on the Baptist pulpit, on the theologians of the Baptist Church, on the thought of the whole of that religious body in this country is simply incalculable. The college and seminary Presidents and professors, the pastors whom he trained as a teacher of theology, are potent disseminators of this influence to-day."

We may justly be proud of the fact that Dr. Robinson was a native of Attleborough; proud that once again one of her sons held worthily the prominent, influential, and responsible position of President of one of the most venerable and well-known among our New England collegiate institutions of learning. We should be deeply grateful that our town has had the honor of giving birth to a man of such true greatness and nobility of character, a man from whose life, living or dead, has emanated and will continue to emanate for generations to come potent and far-reaching influences for the highest good of mankind.

CHAPTER XVI.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, CONTINUED.

ISAAC ALGER, the subject of this sketch, is of the seventh generation, including the first settler of the name in this country. Thomas Alger, the direct ancestor, came here as early as 1665, being at that time in Taunton. Later he removed to Bridgewater, where it is supposed he died. Israel, his son, became a farmer in that town, and "a man of influence and wealth for those days." His wife was Patience Hayward, of a prominent family in Bridgewater. They had five sons. Joseph, the second son, was also a farmer in that place. He married Mary Ames, and they had eight children. The youngest of these, Edmund, became a farmer in West Bridgewater, and lived to quite an advanced age. He had five children. Isaac, the second son and child, was born in Bridgewater in 1764. He married Susanna Johnson in 1788, and settled in Attleborough between 1800 and 1810, on the farm now occupied by his grandson of the same name. He died in 1842, leaving four children. Willard J., the third child and only son, became the occupant of the farm. April 12, 1828, he married Lois Brown, of Foxborough, and he died September 26, 1855. Mrs. Alger is still living with her son. They had five sons, of whom Isaac was the eldest. He received only a short common school education, as at the age of fourteen he was obliged to leave school, and at eighteen he took charge of the farm. January 7, 1857, he married Susan Matthewson. They have three children, Susan W.,[1] Isaac, and John W., all residing in town.

A portion of the land comprised in the present Alger farm has been in the family three quarters of a century. The original farm was purchased of Noah Tiffany by the first of the name in town. Its hundred acres were then chiefly woodland. The first Isaac Alger only attempted to get a living in a moderate way from this land, and he willed it to his grandson, giving his son nothing of it but a life interest. He, Willard J., allowed it to run down in every way, so when the present occupant came into possession he found himself the owner of a hundred acres of "positively bare land," which was withal heavily mortgaged. With this legacy, in reality some hundreds of dollars "worse than nothing," Mr. Alger began life for himself. He seemed to inherit the farming abilities of his earlier ancestors, and by energy, industry, and perseverance he has made his farm one of the best in town and

[1] She married Mr. Eugene Pearce, formerly a resident here for some years. They now live in Chicago, Ill.

himself a well-to-do man financially. He has now some three hundred acres of land, a small portion of which yields fifty tons of hay annually. There are thirty or forty acres of pasture, about forty in cultivation, about ten of cultivated cranberry land, about the same amount of natural cranberry meadow, but a large proportion of the whole is woodland. The buildings are a roomy dwelling-house, a large barn, a cranberry house, and five or more houses for rental. Mr. Alger's sons have their share of the work of the farm to attend to, and men besides are employed, with, in the busy seasons the necessary "extra help." Horses and oxen both are used, and a number of cows are kept upon the place. The dairy is under Mrs. Alger's supervision, who supplies several families with butter, and whatever milk there may be finds a ready market because of its excellent quality.

Mr. Alger's special crop and largest source of income, is cranberries. He turned his attention to this crop many years ago, believing it could be made to pay well. He began in a small way at first, as his means were limited, and made only a small piece of land. (The process of "making" is a simple one. It consists only in removing the turf and filling in five or six inches of gravel, into which plants are set. Some years of waiting for profits may follow, because the crop is a precarious one, but when a good one is reaped the reward is abundant. When land is once well made it requires but little labor or attention to keep it in good condition, an occasional coating of sand, and to be kept clear of grass and weeds being all that is necessary.) He has made ten acres of this land, and the first made was as good at the end of the twentieth as at the end of the first year. He raises several varieties of this fruit, the "Bell," the "Bugle," and the "Cherry" being among them, the latter the most salable. He originated a variety which he named the "Black Pond Seedling," and which he deems superior to the others.

These berries are all picked by hand and taken to the dry-house, where they remain until they have a uniform color, being then ready for the market. Great care is taken in grading them when they are being prepared for shipment, as they are marked and sold by grade. During many years Mr. Alger has employed as many as a hundred pickers, and his crop has for some years averaged two thousand bushels. Pickers are paid fifty cents a bushel, and earn from one to three dollars a day, "according to their activity." One of them at one time "picked five pecks of clear berries in fifty-seven minutes by the watch." The largest market has been Chicago, but shipments have also been made to New York and Philadelphia. These shipments are made for cash on the cars here in town, and the raiser has nothing further to do with the berries.

Mr. Alger from barren wasted land has brought out a fine and fertile farm. He has thoroughly tested his occupation here in New England, where it has been said the land raises nothing but stones, and he emphatically declares, and has as decidedly proved, that it pays, and has "just as good

a profit as any other business with the same amount of capital and labor expended." He says also: "There is not a crop you can put into the ground but will pay a handsome profit, rightly managed, especially in Attleborough. Attleborough is the best market in the United States." Many may deny this statement as a whole, but most concede that it may be true of small farming, for the town market for early and late fruits and vegetables is yearly increasing, and there are large cities at hand on both sides to which access is complete. Mr. Alger has clearly demonstrated the fact that in "sterile New England" a farmer can not only make an excellent living, but even amass a competence from the products of the soil.

BARDEN.

The first of this name in town was one Thomas Barden, who in 1757 was living on the place now occupied by Charles E. Carpenter. His second son, named Thomas, was born in town February 24, 1765. He had a son, also named Thomas, who was born May 3, 1788. This Thomas settled in Wrentham. He married Rachel Smith and had seven children, three of whom are still living. Of these John Smith Barden was born in Cumberland, R. I., in 1813, and became a machinist by trade. He assisted in building the first eight-wheel car that ran over the Boston and Providence Railroad. Since 1834 he has lived more or less in North Attleborough. Joseph Grant Barden was born in Wrentham in 1825 and came to North Attleborough in 1857, where he has since resided. He has five children, four sons and one daughter.

THOMAS ALEXANDER BARDEN was born in Wrentham, May 30, 1819. He was educated at Perkins Academy, North Attleborough, and the Bridgewater Normal School. He taught school during the winter of 1842–43, and in the spring of the latter year commenced his business life as a manufacturer of both domestic and foreign straw goods in Wrentham and Franklin, continuing for five years. In the spring of 1848 he removed to North Attleborough and became manager of the variety store of Ira Richards & Co. Two years later, in 1850, he erected a store near the "old Hatch Tavern" and carried on there a successful business in dry goods, boots, shoes, and clothing until 1872. Since that time he has been associated as a silent partner with his two sons, Francis I. and Walter E. Barden, in the same trade, at the same place, under the firm names of T. A. Barden & Co. and Barden Brothers respectively.

Mr. Barden has frequently been chosen to fill places of public trust in town — has held the office of selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor; has been a member of the school committee and in other minor offices. In 1851 he was appointed a justice of the peace and has retained the office ever since. He is a life member of the Bristol County Agricultural Society, was a trustee of the Attleborough Farmers and Mechanics Association, and is a director in the same society under a new name and organization — the

Attleborough Agricultural Association. He was educated a Democrat, but while still young he "became inspired with a love for Liberty and Equality," and entered actively into the "Liberty and Free Soil Movement," later joining the Republican party. In 1831 the first temperance association was formed in North Attleborough. Mr. Barden, then a schoolboy, joined that organization and has ever since taken a lively interest in the temperance movement and its work. In 1840 he united with the Baptist Church. He has held the office of treasurer, is now the clerk of the society of that denomination in North Attleborough, and during the many years of his residence in that village has been a prominent member of his church and society.

October 12, 1843, he married Susan Emily,[1] daughter of Abijah and Rhoda White, of Wrentham. They have had seven children, of whom four are living, namely, Francis Irwin, Ella Irene,[2] Walter Elliott, and Emily Louise. In 1872, when he retired from active business, he returned to the occupation of his boyhood — farming. He has turned his attention especially to the cultivation of fruit, and in this he has met with signal success and has received many premiums from agricultural associations for his fine exhibits in that line. Mr. Barden has identified himself thoroughly with the interests of this his adopted town, and he holds a high place among her useful citizens.

Henry F. Barrows was born in South Attleborough, July 22, 1828, the son of Alfred and Louisa Barrows, both of this town. His education was that provided by the common schools of the town and the North Attleborough High School. At the age of twelve he went to that village and since that time, 1840, he has resided in that part of the town. Like most of our business men he learned the trade of jewelry-making and was for a time in the establishment of Ira Richards & Co. — an establishment which might well be termed the school of its day for that occupation.

In 1853 Mr. Barrows commenced business for himself at Attleborough Falls as a manufacturer of jewelry. In 1855 he associated with himself Mr. James H. Sturdy, the firm name being Barrows & Sturdy, and the following year they removed to North Attleborough. In 1857 this partnership was dissolved and a new firm established, the new name being H. F. Barrows & Co. Mr. Barrows was thus the founder of one of the most prominent jewelry firms in town. He has proved himself to be a man of enterprise, good judgment, and special business sagacity. He began business upon the principle of meeting his obligations in full and with promptness. He has continued to conduct his affairs by that rule and has reaped the reward such a course merits and generally obtains, an abundant measure of honorable and financial success, for his reputation is unquestionable and he stands at the head of the list of rich men in town.

[1] Mrs. Barden has since died. [2] Mrs. G. Eugene Fisher.

He is connected with various organizations here and elsewhere — organizations which involve both large moneyed and other important interests. His long continuance in these positions proves his capacity for the direction of affairs, and that reliance can be and is placed upon his opinions and judgment, both by the people of his own town and of other places. He is and has been from the beginning the president of the Attleborough Branch Railroad. Of this enterprise which has been so fruitful of benefits to the town he was the chief promoter and principal stockholder. Upon the organization of the North Attleborough National Bank he was elected its president and still retains the office. He has been a director in the North Attleborough Gaslight Company for fifteen or twenty years, a director in the First National Bank of Pawtucket since its organization in 1864, and is also a director in the Providence Telephone Company. He has been for a number of years a trustee of the First Universalist Society. He was one of the leaders and promoters of the project for building a new church for this society, and a very liberal supporter of the movement which resulted in the present complete and beautiful edifice.

October 12, 1854, Mr. Barrows married Henrietta T. Richards, eldest daughter of Ira and Fanny Draper Richards, of North Attleborough. They have five children: Ira, who resides in New York; Henry F., Jr., Fanny, Louise, and Harriet, all residents of North Attleborough.

Ezekiel Bates was born at Hanover, Mass., November 5, 1795. He was the youngest of fifteen children, two of whom were still living, very advanced in years, at the time of his death. When fifteen years old he was apprenticed to "Uncle Jacob" Capron, of this town, the father of Sheriff Elijah Capron, to learn the trade of a house carpenter. He served him until he was twenty-one and then started to make his own way in the world in Boston. A few years later, while still working at his trade there, Frederick Tudor sent him out to the West Indies with the first cargo of ice that was ever shipped from New England. This was both his first and last voyage. He returned from it in 1822, and during that year was married to Lois, the only daughter of Jesse Daggett, of this town. The ceremony was performed by Hon. Ebenezer Daggett. Mr. and Mrs. Bates had three children, who lived to maturity: Mary Ann, who married Lowell Wilmarth, of this town, and Jesse D. and John T. Bates, both residing here.

From the time of his marriage until 1849 Mr. Bates resided in Boston, where he was engaged in the business of a contractor and builder. In that year he removed to this town, to the residence now occupied by his son John.[1] For fourteen years he was a partner of Albert H. Kelsey, of Boston,

[1] This is on the farm inherited by Mrs. Bates from her father and stands a few rods south of the old house, on the west side of the "New Boston road," the site of which is still marked by a large elm tree and a well.

and during that time "he had the honor of building the first railroad passenger depot ever erected in the United States, — for the Boston and Worcester Railroad." He was one of the incorporators of the Mechanics Mutual Fire Insurance Company of this State, well known as a strong, reliable company, and he was actively interested as a member of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society. He took an active part in the revival of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association — was one of the earliest to make a move in that direction — and for thirty years he had a general supervision of the arrangements for the famous triennial fairs of this society. A political organization called "The Republican Association" was formed in 1812 and Mr. Bates was one of its original members. During his entire life he never once missed attending the annual meetings of this society, which occurred on the fourth of March. The association was formed during his apprenticeship here, when he was but a lad in years, — only seventeen, — and it shows that at a very early age he began to think upon the public and political questions of the day, and having thought, he formed opinions and adopted principles and was ready to act upon them decidedly and promptly. The spirit of the "boys of '76" lived on in the boys of 1812, and Mr. Bates, one of those "boys," served in the war of that date, in Captain Elihu Daggett's company from this town.

He took great interest in the Masonic order and was for many years a prominent member of it. He became a Mason in Boston, where on June 9, 1825, he joined St. Andrew's Lodge. In 1834 and 1835 he was master of that lodge; was for a long period one of its trustees, and at the time of his death, with one exception, was its oldest member. He was also a member of St. Andrew's Royal Arch Chapter, having advanced to the degree of that name. His name was given to the lodge formed in East Attleborough "in token of esteem for his qualities as a Mason."

One says of him that when he started in the battle of life he was "strong and robust, of good morals, a benevolent disposition, buoyant spirits, and a refined sense of honor and justice," adding that these were "characteristics which have been the distinguishing traits of his life." During a long term of years he was often placed in offices of trust, both in Boston and in this town, "and his whole life was one of general usefulness and philanthropy." Even advancing years did not exempt him from public duties and he was as zealous at the end of his life as at its beginning in whatever service was required of him. In 1862, when he was nearly threescore and ten years old, he represented the town in the Legislature. His election to that position during the stormy troublous times of the Rebellion shows that his character and capacities were recognized and relied on, and that even in old age his mental and physical vigor were not abated.

His last illness extended over a period of more than three months, and he died of paralysis, March 17, 1871. The funeral was attended at the Second

Congregational Church, under the charge of Bristol and Ezekiel Bates lodges, and with the solemn and impressive burial service of the order, in the presence of hundreds of people. At the close of the services his remains were formally committed to the care of his mother lodge, St. Andrew's, and by them interred in the cemetery at Mount Auburn.

Mr. Bates had no early advantages, but he rose above circumstances and surroundings, and by the force and trueness of his character made for himself an excellent position in life, gaining a high place in the esteem of his fellow-men. He was kind and amiable, but strong and manly withal, an indulgent husband and father, a friendly neighbor, a public-spirited and loyal citizen, "hopeful in purpose, zealous in progress; always full of earnest anticipation for the future good of the community in which he lived." He was skilful as a workman, thoroughly industrious in whatever pursuit occupied him, of unquestionable integrity, honest in all things, and unflinchingly devoted to the right. He possessed what is rare — an evenly-balanced character, a sound mind, good judgment, and a varied knowledge of men and things. This he gained by observation and experience, the best educators. Born with talents which he recognized he made the right and best use of them, and his high position in the town and his wide influence were due solely to himself. His was a long and well-spent life and it ended with much that was good and useful accomplished for his fellow-men. [The only survivors of his immediate family are the two sons.]

Joseph M. Bates was born in North Kingston, R. I., August 2, 1833, and there he spent his childhood and early youth. On leaving home he went first to Providence, and from there, in 1857, he came to this town. On September 10 of that year he made his first essay in the manufacture of jewelry at Willard Blackinton's shuttle-shop. The business was at first a very limited one, as he had but two men engaged in the work besides himself; but from this small beginning the ends already attained have been very great. Thirty years ago he had only that small hired room; now he is the owner of seven shops and rents space to twenty-four tenants who are engaged in the jewelry trade, while he occupies besides a large amount of room for his own personal business. Thirty years ago he had almost no capital and himself assisted with the "work at the bench"; now he is the possessor of large wealth. The road to fortune was not soon an easy or brilliant one; he made no "lucky strokes" to "hit" the popular eye and "gain" the popular taste; he commenced in that well-remembered year of great and general depression all over the country and had many discouragements and had to climb the ladder slowly round by round; but finally success became signally assured.

On June 26, 1853, he married Louise Gardner, of Warwick, R. I. They have three children: Charles R., who married Annie Tinkham, of Norton; Mary L. and Frank M., all residing in town. For fully ten years, since the

death of its first president, Willard Blackinton, Mr. Bates has been president of the First National Bank, and he holds other offices in town. He is a member of Ezekiel Bates Lodge of F. and A. M.

Unlike many everywhere, it can be said of Mr. Bates that having made his money in a certain place he is willing to spend it freely there, and not alone for the pleasure and benefit of himself and family but for the pleasure and benefit of the entire community as well. He seems quite content with the life his adopted town affords, more so, perhaps, than many born and bred in it, as is evidenced by the fact that for more than five years recently he did not pass a single night outside of it. He has done much for his village, proving himself a public-spirited man. This is shown notably in the last building he has erected — Bates Opera House.

It is built of brick, has a frontage of a hundred and sixty feet, is about a hundred and fifty feet deep, and is three stories high. It covers fifteen thousand square feet, and a million bricks were used in its construction. Though the front of the building is irregular, as it stands where Park and North Main streets intersect, it presents a very fine appearance. The first floor is occupied by various stores, and the postoffice, which has recently taken possession of the rooms handsomely fitted up for its use by the owner. The second story contains offices, of which there are eleven in the building, and two suites of bachelor apartments, which are very prettily decorated and furnished, and quite complete in their appointments.[1] The third story contains several halls, which are occupied by three of the secret societies of the village. The interior of the building in every way quite fulfills the promise of the exterior. There are several entrances, and the halls and corridors are sufficiently spacious. The same hardwood finish, a moderately dark cherry, extends through every story, and all the decorations are of colors pleasing to the eye and producing an harmonious effect. This is especially true of the largest lodge hall, whose walls and ceiling are richly ornamented in patterns that suit well its fine proportions and make it as a whole an elegant and imposing apartment.

The theatre lobby is spacious and cheerful, and has a well-furnished ladies' room, and a comfortable smoking-room for gentlemen. The theatre proper occupies the rear of the structure, and of course the full height. The audience-room consists of orchestra and parquet chairs and one tier of galleries, and has seating capacity for eleven hundred people. Very much can justly be said in praise of this room. Its proportions are excellent, the colors used in its decorations are sufficiently varied, but not too pronounced, and the style of finish adopted is very good, particularly that of the boxes.

[1] Mr. Bates has recently converted one of the stores into a restaurant, and a number of the smaller rooms into sleeping rooms, thereby arranging hotel accommodations for a small number of people. Both hotel and café appear to be popular, and their convenience is unquestioned, the need for the latter having been for a long time apparent.

The chairs are thoroughly comfortable, roomy, slightly movable, and handsomely upholstered. They are "something new" in their line, and at the time they were placed had been introduced into only three or four theatres in the country. (Mr. Bates acknowledges having expended $7,000 on them alone, but all other figures as to the outlay on the building must be left to conjecture, as he declines to state them. They are no doubt large, because everything has been thoroughly done.) The large central chandelier, of a fine quality of crystal, is very beautiful in itself, and when fully lighted presents a most brilliant appearance. There is nothing here that is gaudy, nothing to offend a critical eye or taste — nothing unsuited to totally untheatrical entertainments; on the contrary, the entire effect is one of cheerfulness and a quiet elegance. The stage is unusually capacious and the scenery is handsome and complete in variety, and all the modern improvements and appliances for producing plays smoothly are supplied. The dressing-rooms are numerous, and, according to the verdict of many actors, more commodious and better furnished than in many larger theatres; certainly they meet the wants of a large company. In a word, the whole opera house compares favorably with the largest in many of our great cities, and the writer has never seen one of its size that is at all its equal in point of comfort or beauty.

The opening night, September 30, 1886, marked an era in entertainments in the town. The audience was a large one, and made brilliant by the bright costumes and beautiful flowers of the ladies. The play was of the best — Richelieu — the company excellent, with one of our most talented and renowned actors, Lawrence Barrett, "in the title rôle." Throughout the entire first season, which numbered some thirty-five performances, the position taken at the start was maintained, and only plays of a good class were presented. To preserve the rule thus established seems to be the owner's intention, and for this the thanks of the community are due, especially as such a course is not always the most successful financially.

This theatre is an innovation in East Attleborough, and Mr. Bates met with considerable criticism for building it — criticism no doubt honest, but on the whole it would seem rather unjust. People at times demand amusement, and if it is not to be found at home, they will seek it abroad. This was the case here; many often attended the play in the nearest cities, which meant a large outlay of money, late hours, and frequently doubtless some of the attendant dissipations. These latter adjuncts are not necessary with the theatre at home, and if, as has been said, because of it much money leaves the town, some at least must remain, and some of the business interests of the village must be benefited.

But Bates Opera House is by no means confined to the purposes indicated by its name; it has already been occupied for other and varied uses. Up to the time of its erection the village had no place suitable for many occasions

death of its first president, Willard Blackinton, Mr. Bates has been president of the First National Bank, and he holds other offices in town. He is a member of Ezekiel Bates Lodge of F. and A. M.

Unlike many everywhere, it can be said of Mr. Bates that having made his money in a certain place he is willing to spend it freely there, and not alone for the pleasure and benefit of himself and family but for the pleasure and benefit of the entire community as well. He seems quite content with the life his adopted town affords, more so, perhaps, than many born and bred in it, as is evidenced by the fact that for more than five years recently he did not pass a single night outside of it. He has done much for his village, proving himself a public-spirited man. This is shown notably in the last building he has erected — Bates Opera House.

It is built of brick, has a frontage of a hundred and sixty feet, is about a hundred and fifty feet deep, and is three stories high. It covers fifteen thousand square feet, and a million bricks were used in its construction. Though the front of the building is irregular, as it stands where Park and North Main streets intersect, it presents a very fine appearance. The first floor is occupied by various stores, and the postoffice, which has recently taken possession of the rooms handsomely fitted up for its use by the owner. The second story contains offices, of which there are eleven in the building, and two suites of bachelor apartments, which are very prettily decorated and furnished, and quite complete in their appointments.[1] The third story contains several halls, which are occupied by three of the secret societies of the village. The interior of the building in every way quite fulfills the promise of the exterior. There are several entrances, and the halls and corridors are sufficiently spacious. The same hardwood finish, a moderately dark cherry, extends through every story, and all the decorations are of colors pleasing to the eye and producing an harmonious effect. This is especially true of the largest lodge hall, whose walls and ceiling are richly ornamented in patterns that suit well its fine proportions and make it as a whole an elegant and imposing apartment.

The theatre lobby is spacious and cheerful, and has a well-furnished ladies' room, and a comfortable smoking-room for gentlemen. The theatre proper occupies the rear of the structure, and of course the full height. The audience-room consists of orchestra and parquet chairs and one tier of galleries, and has seating capacity for eleven hundred people. Very much can justly be said in praise of this room. Its proportions are excellent, the colors used in its decorations are sufficiently varied, but not too pronounced, and the style of finish adopted is very good, particularly that of the boxes.

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[1] Mr. Bates has recently converted one of the stores into a restaurant, and a number of the smaller rooms into sleeping rooms, thereby arranging hotel accommodations for a small number of people. Both hotel and café appear to be popular, and their convenience is unquestioned, the need for the latter having been for a long time apparent.

The chairs are thoroughly comfortable, roomy, slightly movable, and handsomely upholstered. They are "something new" in their line, and at the time they were placed had been introduced into only three or four theatres in the country. (Mr. Bates acknowledges having expended $7,000 on them alone, but all other figures as to the outlay on the building must be left to conjecture, as he declines to state them. They are no doubt large, because everything has been thoroughly done.) The large central chandelier, of a fine quality of crystal, is very beautiful in itself, and when fully lighted presents a most brilliant appearance. There is nothing here that is gaudy, nothing to offend a critical eye or taste — nothing unsuited to totally untheatrical entertainments; on the contrary, the entire effect is one of cheerfulness and a quiet elegance. The stage is unusually capacious and the scenery is handsome and complete in variety, and all the modern improvements and appliances for producing plays smoothly are supplied. The dressing-rooms are numerous, and, according to the verdict of many actors, more commodious and better furnished than in many larger theatres; certainly they meet the wants of a large company. In a word, the whole opera house compares favorably with the largest in many of our great cities, and the writer has never seen one of its size that is at all its equal in point of comfort or beauty.

The opening night, September 30, 1886, marked an era in entertainments in the town. The audience was a large one, and made brilliant by the bright costumes and beautiful flowers of the ladies. The play was of the best — Richelieu — the company excellent, with one of our most talented and renowned actors, Lawrence Barrett, "in the title rôle." Throughout the entire first season, which numbered some thirty-five performances, the position taken at the start was maintained, and only plays of a good class were presented. To preserve the rule thus established seems to be the owner's intention, and for this the thanks of the community are due, especially as such a course is not always the most successful financially.

This theatre is an innovation in East Attleborough, and Mr. Bates met with considerable criticism for building it — criticism no doubt honest, but on the whole it would seem rather unjust. People at times demand amusement, and if it is not to be found at home, they will seek it abroad. This was the case here; many often attended the play in the nearest cities, which meant a large outlay of money, late hours, and frequently doubtless some of the attendant dissipations. These latter adjuncts are not necessary with the theatre at home, and if, as has been said, because of it much money leaves the town, some at least must remain, and some of the business interests of the village must be benefited.

But Bates Opera House is by no means confined to the purposes indicated by its name; it has already been occupied for other and varied uses. Up to the time of its erection the village had no place suitable for many occasions

of public and general interest. The churches were the largest audience-rooms, but they were frequently found inadequate. They were of necessity made use of, and sometimes for purposes for which they were neither wholly desirable nor appropriate, as many must acknowledge. A want in this direction had long been felt, and is now met by this building, which will be found more and more useful as the years go by and the community enlarges and increases. Prejudice will then be disarmed, and the builder be accorded, as he richly deserves, unanimous commendation for providing a structure adequate in size, convenient in arrangement, and as attractive as it is serviceable.

BLACKINTON.

PENTECOST BLACKINTON was the first of that name in town, and he came from Marblehead or Dorchester about 1700. He had land and a house on Seven Mile River. His wife's name was Mary, by whom he had several children, four of whom at least reached maturity. He died September 24, 1715. Pentecost second had eight children by his wife Rebecca Figgett, Peter, born in 1731, being the youngest. "He was a farmer, was a good citizen, law abiding and God-fearing, and died at a good old age." His son William was born November 2, 1758. He was a gun manufacturer during the Revolutionary war, entered the army also as a soldier, and received a wound in the battle of White Plains. Subsequently he was associated with his son William in cotton manufacturing both at North Attleborough and Falls Village. His residence was on a large farm which he owned in Wrentham. "He was known to everyone as Deacon Blackinton." November 29, 1781, he married Elizabeth Babcock, of Westerly, or Hopkinton, R. I. Four of their children lived to maturity: William, born September 20, 1782; Virgil, born May 12, 1796, married Hannah, daughter of Obed Robinson, and was connected with Willard and Richard Robinson in the manufacture of buttons; Jason, born August 24, 1798, graduated at Brown University in 1826 and after receiving a legal education passed most of his life as a teacher, in Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee; and Willard. Deacon Blackinton was a victim of the plague which swept over this and other towns in 1816. To each of his sons he left about three thousand dollars, "a handsome property for those days."

COLONEL WILLARD BLACKINTON was born October 26, 1800. During his boyhood he lived with his brother William, who was a farmer "on the old homestead." His education was that of the common school and academy. Early in life he evinced a mercantile taste, and began business for himself. His first occupation was that of a general country trader, but he continued this only a few years. In 1827 he established his manufactory of power-loom shuttles. This filled "a long felt want," and the business soon became quite an extensive one, the goods being sent to all parts of the country.

In 1821 he married Clarissa, daughter of Amos and Sally Sweet, and they had six children; namely, William and Willard, twins; Clarissa E., who married Nathan C. Luther, for many years the postmaster of the East village, and one of its highly respected citizens; John, Charles A., and Amos S., of whom Willard is deceased, John resides in Providence, the remaining three brothers in the east part of this town.[1]

Mr. Blackinton was not alone a successful manufacturer; for many years he was among the most active men of the town in many lines of enterprise, both of "business activity and public service," and was honored by his fellow-citizens in many positions of public trust. "In early life he took great interest in militia matters. Of active and vigorous temperament, large, and physically well-proportioned, with a resonant, full voice, he presented a fine appearance, and held the position of adjutant and colonel of a regiment of troopers for years." He was repeatedly called upon to act as the moderator of town meetings, and as the chairman of various popular or political assemblages, and these positions he always filled acceptably. He was an ardent supporter of his political convictions — those of the Whig and Republican parties — and a very popular man in his party: for, when doubtful elections threatened that party, he was frequently the one to be nominated for office, and he never sustained a defeat. As proof that his political integrity was relied on it may be stated that his fellow-townsmen called him at various times to fill every office in their gift, and he served them creditably in all, from the minor public positions in the town itself to those of representative and senator in the State Legislature. He was for a number of years the popular postmaster of the East village, his first appointment being soon after 1830, and "he was a valued member of the Masonic fraternity." He was master of Bristol Lodge when the Morgan agitation created its strong feeling of enmity toward Masonry throughout the land, and when the feeling subsided and interest in the order could be publicly revived he was again elected to the same office.

Of marked ability, Mr. Blackinton was a successful business man, a good financier, and was considered a valuable counselor in business affairs. "He was a director and one of the chief originators of the old Attleborough Bank, and one of the promoters of the First National Bank of Attleborough, of which, upon its formation, he was at once elected director and president." He died very suddenly of heart disease on January 1, 1877, while fulfilling his duties as presiding officer at a meeting of the board of directors held at the bank. He was kindly and generous in his family, an attentive husband, an indulgent and affectionate father, thoroughly social in his nature. He was interested in public measures of improvement, and a liberal supporter of good works. Of fine presence, a dignified and courtly bearing, with the

[1] William and John are both deceased.

manners of a "gentleman of the old school," he was a great favorite in all social gatherings, and in them he gave pleasure alike to young and old. He filled an important place in the town, and especially in his own community, a place which in many respects can never be filled, for the men of his type — the old school type — seem to be fast passing away from our midst.

William Blackinton, one of the twin and oldest sons of Colonel Blackinton, after completing his academic education entered the shuttle manufacturing business as a partner with his father and two of his brothers. For ten years the firm bore the name of W. Blackinton & Sons, William, Willard, and John being the younger members. About 1854 he left this business and started that of cotton manufacturing, which he continued for three years in this town and Pawtucket. This proving unsuccessful, he decided upon a change, and in 1857 took up that of jewelry. For twelve years the business was small, but in 1869 he commenced making plated chains. He "originated a new line of these goods, which speedily proved popular." The demand created for them was soon very large, and his business increased rapidly and continuously, until it became one of the largest and most profitable in town. He has applied himself very assiduously to this one work ever since he entered upon it, having had little or nothing to do with politics, or the public affairs of the town, and to this fact no doubt much of his success is due. He has attended personally to each department of his manufactory, seeing that his goods were the best of their kind, and such as he stated them to be; he has worked himself when he deemed it necessary to insure the proper results, and thus by his careful superintendence his business ability and sagacity has brought his firm to its present high standing, really earning the success which he has won.

Mr. Blackinton married Rebecca C. Allen, a daughter of Josiah and Rowena Tingley Allen, of this town. Their children now living are William Sumner, Charles F., Harry C., Louis A., and Ada R. Blackinton. A number of years since he built for himself a commodious residence on County Street. This he occupied until the present year, 1888, when he sold it and removed to Providence.[1]

CAPRON.

Banfield Capron, the first of the name known in America, came from England in 1674 or 1675 when about fourteen years of age. He was born in 1660 and tradition says he came alone, and as a cabin boy, to seek his own fortune. After his first marriage he settled in Barrington, this State, "whence after a residence of twenty years, he moved with a large family of children away back into the woods to what is now Attleborough," and he

[1] Mr. Blackinton died in Providence, December 30, 1890, and was buried in this town. Charles is also deceased.

became a large landowner here. He purchased and laid out a large tract of land between the Bungay River and the Falls, that on the mill road to what is known as "the Lucas Daggett place," and he also had landed possessions from his first wife, who was the daughter of John Callender, who very early lived where the house of Philip Brady now stands. He owned lands where the Farmers village now is, and built his first house on the site of James B. Dean's residence, near Deantown, and a second near the site of a house built not long since by the late B. J. Angell, on his farm, known as the "Jacob Capron farm." In that vicinity he lived and brought up his very large family, and about fifteen years before he died it is said he gave to each of his children a farm of about two hundred acres. They numbered ten or eleven and were all by his first wife. He died here August 20, 1752, at the very advanced age of ninety-two years. It is supposed he was buried in the "Peck burying ground," and what was the duty of all apparently became the duty of none of his children, for no stone was ever erected to his memory.

Captain Joseph Capron, the second son of the above, "was a farmer, and a man of repute in his day." He was born September 12, 1691. He was married three times and had nine children. His wives were Judith Peck, Bethiah Burt, and Mary French. The latter survived him. He died October 14, 1776, in his eighty-sixth year. Joseph, Jr., — by the first wife, — was fourth child and oldest son of Captain Joseph. He was twice married: first to Sarah Robeson, by whom he had seven children, and second to Sarah Foster, by whom he had eight children, five of whom died at an early age. He was born in November, 1722, and died August 1, 1784. Otis, the third child by the second wife, was born April 17, 1767. "He was a farmer, and an honored and useful citizen, and served his day and generation well. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving at Newport." He died March 3, 1845. His first wife was Rachel Sweet, by whom he had three children, Sally, Mrs. Thomas French, deceased; Nancy, Mrs. Lucas Daggett, still living in this town at a very advanced age;[1] and Otis, who died young. His second wife was Mrs. Hannah Kent Bliss, widow of Jonathan Bliss. Their children were Joseph W.; Maria, deceased; Sabra A., Mrs. Sumner Capron, of this town, deceased; Hannah K., Mrs. Joseph Newcomb, also of this town, deceased; and Rachel Cemantha, widow of Sidney Morse, of this town.

Joseph Willard Capron was born September 24, 1802. He had the education afforded by the public schools of the town, and that of the preparatory department of Brown University. He had intended to enter that college for a course of study, but finding that much attention to the classics

[1] Mrs. Daggett died in September, 1889. She was ninety-three the August preceding.

was required, the knowledge of which he did not deem necessary in the occupation to which his tastes led him, he changed his plans. He himself has recently said he read Dr. Franklin, who thought the classics unnecessary, and this confirmed his opinions; and he shrewdly added: "As I could not learn one language well, I considered it foolish to attempt two or three." He studied for a time with Dr. Ide, and when but seventeen years old began to teach school for sixteen dollars a month, meeting with success in that occupation. He had very early shown a fondness and aptitude for surveying, and even while a student in 1818 he began practical work in this direction. From that time to this he has been employed in that capacity, making that work his chief business.

In 1827 "he was elected and qualified as town surveyor," and during that year he surveyed all the roads in this town, in Pawtucket, Seekonk, and Rehoboth. He has surveyed fully half of the land in the city of Providence, and in the course of his long life he must have resurveyed his native town in whole or in part many times. The following year, 1828, the State employed him as an assistant surveyor on the projected route of the Boston and Providence Railroad Company. He has held the office of a justice of the peace for over fifty years, has been elected a county commissioner three terms, and has been a selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor in town several times. He was president of the Attleborough Mutual Fire Insurance Company for years, held the same office in the Loan and Fund Association of Attleborough, and is still the president of its successor, the Attleborough Loan and Savings Association, in the last two organizations his term already covering a period of over thirty years. He is treasurer of the Norfolk and Bristol Horse Thief Detective Society, and has been president of the Attleborough Gaslight Company since its organization. Mr. Capron has been all his life a Democrat, a firm believer in the principles of Jefferson and Jackson, for the latter of whom he cast his first Presidential vote in 1823.

In 1824 he married Adeline Bliss, granddaughter of Dr. James Bliss. She died March 19, 1872. Two children by this marriage are living: Isabella A., Mrs. Amos Ide, of this town, and Ellen M., who married, first, George E. Payson, of Taunton, and, second, George W. Curien, of this town. October 14, 1872, Mr. Capron married Cynthia Blossom, of Fairhaven, Mass. He has always possessed the vigor of perfect health, "has never employed a physician for himself, and never has known a sick day." When eighty years of age he could "go out with his favorite instruments and without apparent fatigue, do days' works that would appall much younger men." Not many years ago he walked from Pawtucket to his home, a distance of nearly nine miles, after eight o'clock in the evening, and said he "could have walked back easily without resting." For more than a half-century he "has been personally identified with the public interests of the town," but, though the competency he has accumulated renders additional labor unneces-

sary, and his advanced age is a valid excuse for giving it up entirely, he is still able and prefers to be actively employed in the pursuits to which he has been so long accustomed, and which have made him in his day one of the town's useful men.[1]

ABIEL CODDING was born in Rehoboth, January 29, 1817. The ancestors of this family came to Taunton at a very early date. James, who is the first mentioned, was born there and became a farmer, and he was a soldier in our army during the Revolutionary War. His wife was Joanna Eddy, by whom he had three children: David; Abigail, who married Wheaton Barrows; and Abiel. The latter was the youngest, and was born in Taunton, October 27, 1792. He came to Attleborough when about fourteen and worked on a farm for Senaca Sanford, where he proved himself to be industrious, frugal, and temperate. He became "a well to do farmer in this town, where he lived for more than sixty-three years, leaving an example of industry and sobriety well worthy the imitation of the present generation. He was a soldier of the War of 1812, and drew a pension for his services." He died October 3, 1881, having almost reached the age of eighty-nine. His wife was Chloe, daughter of Elihu Daggett, by whom he had thirteen children, eight of whom lived to mature age.

Abiel, the oldest son and subject of this sketch, was brought to this town when a year old. His father's farm was in East Attleborough, and he stayed at home until he was sixteen, receiving the education provided by the common schools of that time. "He was of a mechanical turn of mind, and early turned his attention to the jewelry business. Hence at sixteen we find him in the employ of H. M. Richards. He remained with him some three years, when he formed a copartnership with Stephen Richardson, and was thus employed a short time when they dissolved, and Mr. Codding continued his trade as a journeyman, making valuable improvements in the different kinds of tools used in the jewelry business. In 1839 he went to Philadelphia

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[1] In April, 1888, Mr. Capron resigned his presidency of the Gas Company but still retains that of the Loan and Fund Association. Within a few years he has had two attacks of illness, but he recovered from them naturally and was apparently restored to his accustomed vigor. Upon the last occasion medical aid was summoned, but the doctor said: "I was called after all real necessity for my presence was past; Mr. Capron was getting well himself." On September 24, 1892, he became ninety years old. He announced publicly that he would be at home on the evening of that day to everybody who would call upon him, and many persons from the town and elsewhere availed themselves of the rare and pleasant privilege of offering congratulations upon such an occasion. The house was all thrown open, and tastefully decorated with autumn leaves and flowers. Mr. Capron had a cordial greeting for all, remembered to inquire for absent friends and acquaintances, and interested himself personally for the comfort of his guests. Some he felt needed chairs though he stood unweariedly for hours himself, and straighter and firmer than any one present. One thing he had insisted upon in advance — there must be "young and pretty girls" in the dining-room to pour the coffee, and he was urgent in having matters arranged for their ease and pleasure. Four generations were represented — himself, two daughters, a son's daughter and her child. He is by several years the oldest person in town. He retains his mental and physical faculties to a remarkable degree, his hearing appearing to be the only one impaired. May he live to greet the new century, and then still longer to fill out his full hundred years (February, 1894). Vernal Stanley, of North Attleborough, is a little older.

to work for his old employer, H. M. Richards, but remained only a few months, when he returned to North Attleborough, and entered the employ of Ira Richards & Co." In 1841 he entered this firm and remained in it until in 1845 the death of the senior partner caused a change in name and partnership, and under the new name he continued in the firm for thirty years, until it was dissolved. This latter was the famous firm of E. I. Richards & Co.

"Mr. Codding was naturally a mechanic, and by close application to his business he attained a degree of success acquired by few. He made valuable improvements in manufacturing, and obtained several patents for new tools." He is one of the directors of the First National Bank of North Attleborough and president of the Attleborough Savings Bank; president, also, of the North Attleborough Gaslight Company. He belongs to the Democratic party but takes no public interest in political affairs. No man has more of the respect of his community than he.

October 28, 1841, he married Ann Maria Richards, daughter of Calvin and Olive Blackinton Richards, of this town. She was born August 16, 1819. They have had five children. Arthur E., James A., and Edwin A. are all engaged in business in North Attleborough. The daughters, Ella M. and Ellen L., are both deceased.

CUMMINGS.

This family is supposed to be of Scottish descent, but the first to emigrate to America came from England at about the same time that "the three brothers Richardson came," and settled in Woburn, this State. The great-great-grandfather of the present generation was one Abraham Comens, as the name was then spelled, and he married a Richardson, probably a daughter of one of the "three brothers." They had nine children. Of these David was the one who came to this town to settle and about the time of his marriage he bought the farm now owned by Allen and George Cummings in Bearswamp — or Bearcroft, as it is now called. Very little is known of him. An old rifle still in the possession of the family is known, however, to be the one he carried in the French and Indian War, and as conscientiousness is a leading trait of this family, it may be assumed beyond doubt that he performed his duties as a soldier very faithfully. In all probability the old rifle may have slain more than one Indian while in his hands. This David Cummings had seven or nine children and he died about the time of the birth of Benjamin, the youngest, who occupied the old homestead during his life and who died there May 20, 1860. The death of the father had left the mother with a large family of young children, the support of which devolved upon herself and David, the oldest son, at that time but twelve years of age. They all remained together until David was twenty-two years of age, when he purchased a farm about a mile distant from the home — this was then the homestead of a Mr. Bishop and is the farm now owned by Mr. Marsh. Here he spent the remainder of his life, and here he died March 18, 1846, at the great age of eighty-five years.

It is related of him that when fifteen years of age he carted a load of hay to Providence and received his pay for the same in the currency of the country, which was at that time nearly worthless and amounted in bulk to about as much as the hay. During the War of 1812 Mr. Cummings was sent to the defence of Narragansett Bay, but the expected attack of the enemy did not take place and he returned home after only a short absence. He had four children: Preston, Lucinda, David, and Milton.

PRESTON CUMMINGS, the oldest son, when a youth sustained rather severe injuries by falling from a load of hay and after that it was decided to give him an education. In those days the turning of farmer boys into professional men was often the result of accident, as in this case. Mr. Cummings graduated at Brown University in 1822 and entered the ministry in the Congregational denomination. His first pastorate was at Dighton, this State, and he subsequently had charges in Wrentham and Buckland, finally returning to Dighton. During the last years of his life he published a "Congregational Dictionary" and he also occupied himself in collecting manuscripts and books for several antiquarian societies. He died in Leicester, Mass., at the residence of his son, in 1875. This son, James, the only one of his family who lived to maturity, became a physician and settled in Leicester, where he established an excellent reputation. He had just acquired a good practice when he died. His death was caused by the exposure consequent upon attending to the call of a patient when he was under treatment for sickness himself.

DAVID CUMMINGS, a younger brother of the above, followed the avocation of a farmer. He had to pick up an education as best he could, having no instruction beyond that afforded by the district school and two terms at Day's Academy in Wrentham. He purchased a farm about a quarter of a mile from his father's, on which he lived his entire life. To his work as a farmer he frequently, during his younger days, added the occupation of school-teaching in the winter months. He died at an advanced age, on October 12, 1884. Mr. Cummings was a scrupulously honest, industrious, God-fearing man. There are many who will long remember him as he was during his later years, who will recall the somewhat bowed form and the kindly face, surmounted with a crown of snow-white hair, especially as they appeared in their accustomed pew in the Congregational Church of his village; for as long as health and strength permitted, in summer's heat or winter's cold, his place in the sanctuary was filled — none ever found it vacant. He was a quiet, unobtrusive man, and, comparatively, his life was a quiet and uneventful one; but the measure of his many days was filled full of duties to God and man well done. He thought only on "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report," and the virtue and the praise of such a life were his. Who shall say that he did not exert a wider and a

nobler influence than many another more prominent in the common affairs of the world and of men? He was a truly good man and his community is the better for the example of his consistent Christian life.

HANDEL N. DAGGETT, son of Hon. Ebenezer and Sally Maxcy Daggett, was born in this town, January 27, 1821. After attending the common schools here and working at the same time on his father's farm, as most country boys then did, he went to the Wrentham Academy (Day's), and later to the one in North Attleborough, where, under Isaac Perkins, his school education was completed. He served "a short, unprofitable apprenticeship with a relative" in Boston, and then returned home and became a clerk in a store at the Falls for a time. In 1849 he formed a partnership with his brother, H. M. Daggett, and they purchased the Falls mill, where for several years they manufactured print cloths, sometimes with success, sometimes with the reverse. This partnership was dissolved about 1855. From this time until 1860 Mr. Daggett engaged in other kinds of manufacturing, chiefly the covering of hoopskirt wires. He at first started with a few braiders in the Steam Power Company's shop at Attleborough, but, needing more space than he had there, he later removed to the Farmers mill. After the breaking out of the war he was occupied for a while in filling government orders for sabres. The blades were made in Maine and he manufactured the scabbards in the Steam Power building. He made some $70,000 worth and for a time this was about all the business done in the East village.

For some time previous Mr. Daggett had been revolving in his mind the idea of manufacturing dress and other braids of a good quality that should equal the foreign goods of the kind, which up to 1861 usurped the markets. The war at that time laid an embargo upon European imports, thus creating a large demand in this direction, for which the supply was entirely insufficient. This embargo made the desired opportunity, and he seized it with great promptness and energy. He repurchased the Falls mill property and commenced the braid business there and it at once became a very extensive one. He still continues to carry it on under the name of the Gold Medal Braid Company, and it is specially noticed in a preceding chapter. This property had become somewhat run down; the tenements and their surroundings were shabby and untidy, and some of the inhabitants were so lawless that the community had come to have a rather disreputable name. Previous to his becoming the owner the rowdy element had at times been decidedly predominant, had taken possession frequently of the streets, the sidewalks, the stores, and the public meetings, to the exclusion of the better class of people. As soon as he took possession Mr. Daggett established order and had it maintained, and the "roughs," who had become a real terror, under his decided and vigorous treatment "either left town, or subsided into peaceful citizens." He has greatly improved the whole property, erected new buildings, and made for himself there a charming home. Since his advent various jewelry

firms have established themselves at the Falls and at Robinsonville, and the two villages, now together called by the former name, have had a remarkable growth and present as a whole a thriving and attractive appearance — no small share of the great improvements being due to his efforts. He was the means of establishing the much-needed postoffice there, and most liberally pushed forward the building of the new church of the village, both with time and money. He has had no trouble with strikes, probably in part because there has been nothing to give rise to such a course, and in part doubtless because his employees have thoroughly understood that *unjust* demands on their part would result in their prompt dismissal, with very little prospect of ever again finding work in the same place.

Mr. Daggett is a thoroughly enterprising man and actively interested in public improvements. Whatever work he undertakes he pushes to completion with energy and in spite of opposing obstacles. He was one of the originators of the "Branch Railroad," active in pushing forward the work of its organization and construction, and has been treasurer of the corporation from the beginning. He is a stanch and zealous Republican, always ready to support his party and to work for its interests, and he has often represented it for the town at political conventions. For some years during the Civil War he was "Chairman of the Selectmen" — the duties of which office were then especially onerous — and in 1864 he was the town's representative. He was relied on when our country was in danger and there was peculiar need for every loyal citizen to show of what stuff his principles were made. In working to uphold the State and General Government, to aid and support our armies in the field, and to make the war record of our town a worthy one, no man was more faithful and zealous than he. He was a deputy sheriff at one time, held the position of town clerk from 1848 till 1851, was selectman (as previously stated) and assessor, and in 1884 was for the second time a representative to the General Court. He "has been a member of the Governor's Council and has held other positions of honor within the gifts of the people." He was always loyal to *Attleborough*, the town of his birth, and had no desire to see any portion of its territory "set off" from another portion to be made into a separate town. He was therefore one of the strongest opponents of the division and worked assiduously in all ways possible to prevent its taking place.

Mr. Daggett has been married more than once, and has had eight children. Four are living and all residents of this town: Josephine S., Mrs. Harvey Clap, of Attleborough Falls; Florence J., Mrs. H. F. Barrows, Jr., of North Attleborough; Frances A. and Blanche Daggett, the latter by the present wife.

[Mr. Daggett died February 27, 1894, aged exactly seventy-three years and one month, after an illness which for more than a year had exhibited symptoms of a markedly serious and at times imminently fatal nature, and frequently been attended with attacks of extreme suffering,

which were borne with the quiet fortitude characteristic of his family. For a long period he had had the management of large business interests of his own, and during the later years of his life especially he had become identified with various enterprises and held responsible offices in numerous business organizations, both in town and elsewhere. "At the time of his death he was a Director of the First National Bank of Pawtucket and the North Attleboro' National Bank of North Attleboro', President of the Industrial Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Boston, Vice-President of the Cotton and Woolen Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Treasurer of the Attleboro' Branch Railroad, and held positions of trust in various other concerns. He was also a member of the Boston Home Market club, and of Squantum club and other social organizations."

Until he was more than threescore years and ten he led a life of the greatest activity — one which was suited to him, and which his varied interests necessitated; one, too, in which his own physical endurance had never been a matter of question; then he was suddenly called upon to lead a life of the utmost quietness — one filled with hourly watchfulness of himself physically; he was compelled to give up his personal attendance upon the duties of one office after another, and gradually to assume the dreary monotonous rôle of an invalid. To few natures would such a necessity prove more tedious and irksome than to a busy, energetic one like his, yet he bore the severe trial with an unbroken patience, which showed as nothing else could have shown his real strength of will and the true force of his character. He never lost his keen interest in the concerns of the community about him or in the affairs of his friends, and he welcomed all who visited him with a cordial pleasure as they brought him news of themselves or of the outside world. But he fully understood the meaning of the warnings which reached him, so he "set his house in order," and with steady calmness faced death as he daily drew nearer, yielding himself without the shadow of a struggle when the final summons came.

Lengthened words of praise are not needed in writing of Mr. Daggett, for his life is well known to his fellow-townsmen, and the great business he built up, the church he so materially assisted, and the results of his many generous acts are better memorials than any printed eulogies. His funeral was attended at his residence on March 3, the presence of many friends and offerings of beautiful flowers testifying to the estimation in which he was held. He was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery. Another prominent, honorable, and much-needed citizen has passed away, and alas! another who leaves behind no son to bear his name.]

Homer M. Daggett, twin brother of the above, was born January 27, 1821. After the district school he attended Day's Academy in Wrentham, the North Attleborough Academy under Isaac Perkins for a time, and later went to the Worcester High School. His schooldays, however, came to an end early, as in 1837, at the age of sixteen, he began to work for himself. His first occupation was that of a clerk in the old Falls store and he continued it until 1849. At that time the partnership with his brother was formed. They first bought out the Browns, who were occupying and operating a part of the Falls mill, and subsequently they bought the entire property, which then comprised the greater portion of the village. They continued the partnership, carrying on their manufacturing there or at the Farmers, until about 1855. Three years previous to this date Mr. Daggett had removed his residence from the Falls to the Farmers, where he has ever since resided in a house built by one of the Bliss brothers when they owned that mill and village.

In 1860 he was elected cashier of the Attleborough Bank, and remained in the position until 1872. During this time there was quite an excitement in town over an attempt to rob the bank. Mr. Daggett was awakened one night

by an unusual sound, the mewing of a cat in his sleeping-room. His first thought was for the bank keys, and going to the places where they were kept he found some of them gone: this was before the days of combination locks, and keys were rather large and ponderous. Examination speedily showed that the house had been entered and gone over, many articles were scattered about and some were found on one of the outer doorsteps, and quite an amount of personal money taken. Fortunately, a large sum secreted in the house, to be taken the following day to Boston, was not discovered. The neighborhood was quickly aroused, and the cashier with several of the gentlemen started for the bank, then at North Attleborough. The keys taken proved not to be the outside ones, and the building was found intact, the would-be burglars having neglected to provide themselves with any means of effecting a forcible entrance. The missing keys were found near the bank, but no trace of the miscreants was ever found. Some story about two "suspicious looking men," who left a "stable team" they had hired, tied to a tree in an adjoining town, with money for its use fastened to the bridle of the horse, floated about for a time, impressing young people with its air of mystery, but nothing further was heard of this matter.

After his twelve years of service at this bank Mr. Daggett again became a manufacturer, and for a few years he carried on business at the Farmers and at Deantown, making yarn and knitting cotton, and for a short time engaged with his brother in the making of shoestrings. In 1875 he assisted in organizing the First National Bank of Attleborough, was elected its first cashier, and has never been superseded in this office. In these days of absconding bank officers and times of "turning over" public moneys for private benefit it is worthy of note that a cashier has retained his position for a quarter of a century and has during all that time possessed the unquestionable confidence of his brother officers and the entire community, beyond the shadow of a doubt. In 1859 Mr. Daggett was elected Senator in the State Legislature, and served one term. For many years he has been a deacon in the First Baptist Church in North Attleborough, and in whatever position he occupies his reputation is the same — that of an unassuming and reliable man and citizen, and a dignified, Christian gentleman.

In May, 1843, he married Angelina Daggett, of this town. She died October 9, 1885. They have had seven children, four of whom died young. Those living are Alice A., Homer M., Jr., and Sanford, the two latter married, and all living in town.

Lyman White Daggett is a descendant, as are the brothers above mentioned, of the John Daggett who came here from Chilmark about 1711, and a direct descendant of the oldest son, Mayhew, who was a deacon, presumably in the Baptist Church at North Attleborough. The son of Mayhew, Elihu, was an elder of that faith, and first preacher in the South Baptist Church of this town. He was a captain in the provincial militia, "and with two of his

sons, Mayhew and Ichabod, was engaged in the fight of Col. Bradstreet in 1758, which resulted in the capture of Fort Frontenac, together with nine armed vessels, sixty cannon, sixteen mortars, and a vast quantity of ammunition." The circumstances of the elder's participation in this battle were frequently related by another son, Elihu, who was at the time a lad of about thirteen: "The two sons had been absent some time in the war, and no news had been received from them. The father said, in his anxiety, 'If I hear nothing in a week, I will go and find them.' Nothing was heard. He shouldered his musket, reached the seat of war, found a battle raging, entered the action, and after the victory discovered his sons as participants with himself in its glory." This lad Elihu, who later evinced a decided aptitude for martial pursuits, was born December 4, 1745. He was an adjutant and a minute-man in the Revolution, and when the alarm sounded from Bunker Hill started at once for the field. He was a farmer, and for many years a teacher also. He built the house at the Falls, which is now the residence of H. N. Daggett. He died June 14, 1833. Captain Elihu Daggett was his son, and was born February 24, 1785. He also became a farmer, but he took great pleasure in all military exercises, especially in the training and disciplining of soldiers. For a short time during the War of 1812 he commanded a company stationed at Plymouth, Mass., and afterwards, when the war was over, he was the means of forming the Washington Rifle Corps, became its first commander, and to him doubtless was largely due the fact that it was "distinguished as one of the finest and best-disciplined companies in the brigade." Captain Daggett married Lucinda White, of Pembroke, Mass. She was a descendant of Peregrine White. "Her father, Captain William White, was a faithful soldier of the Revolution, present at the surrender of Cornwallis, and engaged in many battles during that fearful struggle." Captain Daggett died January 25, 1871.

His only son was Lyman W. Daggett, the subject of this sketch, who was born July 28, 1812. He attended the schools of this town, and was always an eager and earnest scholar. Having received the instruction then afforded by these schools, he entered Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass., "enjoyed its rich opportunities, faithfully improved the facilities there afforded the honest, struggling student, and left with the respect, benediction, and warm recommendation of its renowned principal, the late Osgood Johnson, Esq." For eight years he was a successful teacher in both public and private schools. Then he entered the ministry and became pastor over the Universalist Church and Parish in Holliston, Mass., and later preached in Andover, Mass., and in Woodstock and Hartland, Vt. As a preacher he was clear and practical and as a pastor he was conscientious, faithful, and devoted, willing ever "to spend and be spent" in the service of his people.

June 8, 1842, he was married to Nancy G. Fuller, daughter of John and Nancy Fuller, of Wrentham. Mr. Fuller was of a prominent family in that

town, and through his mother related to Dr. Jonathan Maxcy, previously mentioned in this book. Mr. Daggett had three children, only one of whom is living, Cora La R. Daggett. His mother's death occurring in 1847, he at that time resigned his pastorate in Hartland and removed to Attleborough Falls, where he continues to reside, engaged as his ancestors were "in the successful pursuit of agriculture." Like many others in town, he has been to a moderate extent in public life, having filled the offices of selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, and town clerk several times, and served often as a member of the school committee. In 1851, 1852, and 1853 he represented the town in the Legislature. As a member of that body "he was a friend and advocate of prohibition, of the mechanics' lien law, of homestead exemption, of the secret ballot, in fine, of all enactments calculated to promote home rule, free votes, and honest counts. He has always been true to temperance, speaking on all suitable occasions in its advocacy, and living in the practice of total abstinence from all intoxicants for more than fifty years past." While he has never had a regular pastoral charge since returning to this town to reside, he has during those years been at times a frequent preacher, not only in the church of which he is a member, but in those of other denominations.

Mr. Daggett is a man of well-balanced character, one whose judgment may safely be and is relied on, and whose actions are consistent with his high principles.[1]

DEAN.

Ephraim Dean was one of the pioneer settlers of this town. He came here from Taunton and purchased large tracts of land on which there were valuable water privileges. He settled in what is still from him called Deantown. Tradition says that his first day's work on his arrival here began with the felling of a tree; then, strong man as he was, he cried a while — overcome for the moment doubtless by the loneliness of his situation; then he went to work to build his camp or hut, using a blanket for the doorway; and finally, all completed, he went to sleep. The next morning no doubt found him refreshed and full of renewed courage, ready "to face the situation." He took up at first eighty acres, afterward largely increasing this amount, until finally he became possessed of about four hundred acres of land. He built the mill at Deantown, where nails were manufactured by himself and his sons. He married Martha Balcomb, a woman of enterprise as he was a man. She was well fitted to assist her husband in his pioneer work and to aid him in laying the foundation for his subsequent success. They had four children: Asa, Ephraim, Patty, and Sarah. These two sons remained for many years on the spot where their father settled. Ephraim was the farmer and Asa

[1] Mr. Daggett died January 10, 1892, and Mrs. Daggett, January 19, 1892. They were buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

the mechanic. He was a wheelwright, carriage-maker, etc., and became a leading business man in his time. He was born here in 1759. He was married twice. His first wife was Phebe Wilmarth, by whom he had six children, and the second was Chloe Bourn, by whom he had seven children.

Lyman Washington Dean, one of these seven, was born February 22, 1805, hence his middle name. His father died December 25, 1815, when he was not quite eleven years of age, leaving a large property, consisting, however, chiefly of rather unproductive real estate, the care of which and of four children devolved upon the mother. Mr. Dean remained on the farm for about six years after his father's death, and then his mother removed to a factory village near, — probably the Farmers, — where two of the family found employment. He himself worked in the mill for eighteen months as a mule-spinner, which was then a more honorable position than it is now. Although he was under age he was allowed to act for himself, and he had the disposal of the money he earned. He has said himself that he failed to make proper use of the educational advantages he might have had as a boy, and as he advanced in life he felt the consequences of this neglect; but he set himself to work to rectify as far as possible what he called the mistake of his youth. For one year he followed a varied course of study, first in a common school and later in the Wrentham Academy, and such was his natural ability for real study and his aptitude to learn that in this short time his success was particularly marked, and on leaving the academy he had a recommendation to teach English branches in the common-school course. He began teaching in Rehoboth, where he satisfied those who employed him; but soon after his mother returned to the old farm and he gave up his situation to become its manager for her. From that time for some years, until 1835, he worked at farming during the summer and taught during the winter months in this town, Taunton, Canton, and Dedham, in all places giving satisfaction.

He married Maryette Ingraham, daughter of Ezra and Eloisa Richardson Ingraham, of this town, on April 8, 1833. Mrs. Dean was born here May 31, 1807. Their children were Henry L., born April 17, 1834, died July 3, 1857; Frank, born December 29, 1837; Sebra Ingraham, born November 4, 1849, died November 24, 1849. Henry left one daughter, Mary W., who lived with her grandparents until she was sixteen years of age, when she died.

Mr. Dean was as a young man an earnest supporter of temperance principles. In 1835 the proprietors of a temperance hotel in East Attleborough, knowing the position he maintained on that question, though probably in some degree influenced by their knowledge of Mrs. Dean's abilities for managing domestic details, offered the charge of their hotel to him, which he accepted. Two years later, in 1837, by a freak of fortune, it is said, he was enabled to purchase that even then valuable property. During the same year

he took charge of the postoffice, which he held for twenty-four years with the exception of a short period. For thirteen years he was agent at the railroad station. "Up to 1850, Mr. Dean continued to fill his offices of host, station agent and keeper of the postoffice," in which year he was removed from the latter office, though to the regret and against the remonstrances of many of his fellow-townsmen. The office at that time was worth about three hundred dollars a year. About this time he resigned his position as station-master — almost a necessity in view of the variety of his other occupations, for he kept a livery stable in connection with his hotel and ran a line of stages. This was the first line of stages established here and ran "eight miles from the railroad station."

He was for fifteen years a director of the bank, and he held the office of a notary public for some time. This was an unsolicited appointment which he received from Governor Briggs, and coming thus from his opposing political party was complimentary to him as a citizen. Various local public offices were from time to time tendered him which he declined to accept. In 1848 he was for the first time nominated for State Senator, but at that period politics were much divided and his election was not secured. The following year he was nominated again and refused to accept, but when in 1850 he was nominated for the third time he was elected. In 1851–52 he was Sheriff of Bristol County under Governor Boutwell. He held the office of a justice of the peace for over thirty years; that of a collector of internal revenue for a number of years; and for some time he has been a collector of pensions and bounties, which duties he still attends to. He was formerly a Democrat, but known as one "of the most liberal stamp" and one never "ashamed or afraid to utter his sentiments in behalf of his party tenets." In 1860, however, he voted for Abraham Lincoln, and since that time has identified himself with the Republican party, though continuing to "maintain the same general principles he always advocated" and holding "that the Democratic party has left him, not he the party." He was very active in all "war work." He made many a stirring speech in the "war meetings," rousing in others something of his own enthusiasm; he urged forward all patriotic measures adopted by the town and performed a creditable share in the work accomplished by our loyal citizens. He has been one of our prominent public speakers. He always had reasons for holding the opinions he adopted; his arguments were good, and if he spoke at all upon any question, it was because he had something to say, and he said it plainly and vigorously. Mrs. Dean was also very active in work for our soldiers of the Civil War, and she was long known in her village for her good works among the needy and sorrowing. "Aunty Dean's" words of comfort and cheer, joined always with deeds of kindness, will yet long be remembered by their recipients. Advancing years and broken health have now compelled them to relinquish their public duties, but both Mr. and Mrs. Dean are able to look back over many years of useful

activity and can feel that their lives have not been passed without good results in their community and town.[1]

GEORGE ASA DEAN is also a descendant of Ephraim the pioneer. His grandfather was Asa "the mechanic." His father was also named Asa and his mother was Lucy Head, of Seekonk. They had three children: Lucy, who married William Carnes, of this town; Chloe, who married Deacon Atherton Wales, both deceased; and George A., who was born May 2, 1835. He had only the town's common-school advantages, and on January 1, 1857, when not quite twenty-two, he entered into partnership with four gentlemen as Everett, Dean & Co. in the jewelry business at East Attleborough, where he has since continued. This firm, now G. A. Dean & Co., has had many changes and Mr. Dean has been for some time the only original member left in it.

In the various movements during more recent years tending toward village and town improvement he has taken an active interest — in their favor; but from his standpoint, not recognizing division in any present or future aspect as a benefit, he strongly opposed that measure. At the organization of the Water Supply District he was elected its treasurer and held the office for seven years. In 1877 he served a term as a representative to the State Legislature. He is one of the directors of the First National Bank, and of the Savings and Loan Association. He is also vice-president of the Attleborough Savings Bank and a water commissioner of the Attleborough Fire District — positions which in themselves show the standing of a man in his community. Mr. Dean also lends a liberal hand to good works, both in his church and outside its limits.

April 15, 1857, he married Bessie B. Richardson, a native of Maine. After his prosperity was assured he made for himself a beautiful home. He and his neighbor, Mr. Sturdy, were the pioneers in building handsome modern houses on South Main Street, and the first in the village to adopt the then somewhat novel Queen Anne style. The doors of this attractive house have been frequently opened for the entertainment of a large circle of friends, with a generous hospitality made charming by the cordial greetings and kindly attentions of the affable host and hostess. There have never been children here, but it is an especially delightful place for little people to visit; and they are always peculiarly honored guests, everything possible being done to minister to their pleasure and make them happy.

Mr. Dean is frequently called upon to preside at meetings, is often made moderator of town meetings and placed upon committees involving the

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[1] Mr. Dean died at his residence on North Main Street, March 7, 1891, aged eighty-six years and twelve days. No special disease attacked him. He had been growing more and more feeble for a long time, and finally the lamp of life burned out. Mrs. Dean died December 4, 1892, at the age of eighty-five years, six months, and a few days. Her interest in the world about her continued unabated, and her deeds of goodness and charity ceased only with her life.

highest matters of public interest, and his judgment is relied on in the settlement of estates. So many and so varied duties of a responsible nature are continually being placed upon him that he has come to be a very busy man in work for private individuals, the community, and the town. He never seeks preferment, but he performs all his duties, whether of a public or a private nature, quietly, without ostentation, with the courtesy inherent in his nature and the dignity becoming his character and position. A conscientious man of high principles and strict integrity in every form of dealing, no town can well be without his like or number among its citizens too many such upright, Christian gentlemen.

FRANK S. DRAPER was born November 8, 1829, the son of Josiah and Mandama Everett Draper. When eighteen years of age he became an apprentice of Tifft & Whiting to learn the trade of jewelry making, and at the expiration of his time became a member of the firm of Draper, Tifft & Co., at Plainville. There was a prosperous existence of ten years' length and then Mr. Draper sold out his interest to his partners — the firm name being then Draper, Tifft & Bacon.

In 1862 he enlisted in the Forty-seventh Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, being mustered into service on September 23 of that year as First Lieutenant of Company C. This regiment was sent to New Orleans and on August 4 of the following year Mr. Draper received a commission as Captain of the Second Louisiana Native Guards. Subsequently he served on General Banks' staff, and did good service in every position he occupied. His services to his country as a soldier ended only with the close of the war, when he returned to his native village, North Attleborough. About 1866 he associated with F. G. Pate and F. S. Bailey, as manufacturing jewelers, under the name of Draper, Pate & Bailey. The business had greatly increased in 1875, at which time Mr. Pate withdrew and the other partners continued as F. S. Draper & Co. In September of that year the firm was burned out, but Mr. Draper was too energetic to allow himself to be discouraged by such an experience and immediately began plans for the future. He soon purchased the shop which with some changes and additions he occupied till his death. In 1877 he bought Mr. Bailey's interest in the business and continued alone, though he retained the last firm name.

In 1851 he married Harriet E. Robinson, by whom he had two sons — Josiah E., a member of the firm of Draper & Franklin, and Frank E., a physician. Mr. Draper was actively interested in the formation of the First National Bank of Attleborough and was one of its directors at the time of his death; in 1877 he was elected vice-president of the Attleborough Savings Bank, and retained the office as long as he lived; for a number of years he was treasurer of the North Attleborough Fire District, and about 1885 was selected as one of the water commissioners. He was a liberal promoter of the work of the First Universalist Church and Society. He

was a member of Bristol Lodge of F. and A. M. and of Keystone Chapter at Foxborough; he was a Knight Templar in Holy Sepulchre Commandery of Pawtucket, and was one of the charter members of Bristol Commandery. He was always actively engaged in town affairs, took part in public meetings, and did what lay in his power to advance all the best interests of the town. The labor question was one which also excited his interest and attention, and he was an active member of the Knights of Labor organization. In this organization he was decidedly popular, and his death called forth very general expressions of sympathy and regret from the working people.

Mr. Draper died August 15, 1886. The funeral was attended at his late residence and conducted by Rev. W. F. Potter and Rev. Mr. Alden, the latter a personal friend. He was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery by the Masonic order. One says of him: "Mr. Draper was a man of marked individuality, was deeply interested in public affairs, and was very sympathetic with the poor and unfortunate. He performed many unostentatious kindnesses, many hitherto untold acts of quiet charity, which have caused him to be remembered with gratitude by the recipients of his thoughtfulness. The spontaneous expressions of sympathy during his illness, and the general regret at his death, are a strong testimonial of his hold upon those around him."

FISHER.

Joseph Fisher, as may be seen in the accounts of the Old Colony boundaries, was one of the commissioners appointed in 1664 to run a line between Plymouth and Massachusetts colonies. Richard and Samuel, supposed to be his sons, "came to Wrentham from Salem about or prior to 1700." Richard had two children, of whom Samuel was the oldest and the only son. He "was a stonecutter by trade, was a captain of militia in the Revolution, being called to the field while attending church with his company." He was born in 1732 and died in 1816 at the age of eighty-four. He had five children, of whom Samuel was the oldest, was a stonemason, "and like his father, was a diligent, hard working man of honesty and thrift." They were the Samuel Fisher & Son who made the Angle Tree monument erected in 1790 on the line between this town and Wrentham. This Samuel third married Olive Ellis, daughter of Captain Jabez Ellis frequently mentioned in the early part of this town's history. Both were victims of the terrible plague of 1816, when so many people of this vicinity died. They had nine children.

Samuel P. Fisher was the third child and second son. He was born in Wrentham, August 4, 1795. He attended the common schools, whose advantages were then very limited, "and learned the blacksmith's trade of Enoch Arnold, under the old system of apprenticeship." In 1818 he came

to this town and commenced plying his trade "in a shop near Hatch's tavern." His first wife was Charlotte, daughter of Othniel and Chloe Blackinton, by whom he had two children, who died. She died in 1832, and in the following year Mr. Fisher married Susan G., the daughter of George and Judith Guild Blackinton, by whom he had five children — William W.; Carrie A., Mrs. H. S. Somes; Samuel E.; Charles E.; and Mary E., Mrs. T. E. Sloane, of Brooklyn. Mr. Fisher's blacksmith-shop "was one of the old landmarks, and in stage-coach times was a common stopping-place, and the only place of the kind in this part of Attleborough." For thirty-three years he carried on this business and then relinquished it to take up that of real estate and at the same time to occupy himself with his farm. "He was a man of strong convictions and fixed principles," but yielded to others when he became satisfied that he held wrong opinions. He belonged to the "old line Whig party," and afterward became a Republican. He was an active and consistent temperance man and inclined toward Universalism, though he never became a church member. "He was a kind husband and father, and did for his children all that his means would allow. He was an honest man, much respected by his acquaintances, and straightforward in everything." His death occurred January 6, 1863, at the age of sixty-seven.

WILLIAM W. FISHER is the oldest son of the above by his second wife. He was born July 19, 1834. He attended the common schools, and then "learned the jewelers' trade," later taking up that business, which he has continued ever since, two years only excepted. those being passed in work at the Springfield Armory. December 22, 1859, he was married to Nettie, daughter of William B. Pilcher, of Norfolk, Va., who died in 1863. In 1870 he married Lizzie E., daughter of George Miller, of Easthampton, L. I., by whom he has had two children — Mattie L. and Susie M. Mr. Fisher is a member of Hampden Lodge of F. and A. M. of Springfield, Mass., of the Massachusetts Charitable Association, and one of the firm of S. E. Fisher & Co., of North Attleborough.

SAMUEL E. FISHER, the second son, was born November 9, 1839. After going through the town common schools he attended the Green Mountain Liberal Institute at Woodstock, Vt. His first occupation was that of clerk for T. A. Barden, which he continued for five years. "During the Rebellion he was employed by the United States government as clerk in quartermaster and commissary departments in Virginia and Texas." In 1869 he became clerk in the New York office of H. F. Barrows & Co., remaining five years, when he commenced business for himself in his native village. In this he has been successful. His wife, whom he married in 1872, was Georgie S., a daughter of Henry Clark, of New Bedford, Mass. Mr. Fisher is a member of British Lodge F. and A. M. at North Attleborough, and of King Hiram Chapter at Attleborough.

CHARLES EVERETT FISHER is the third and youngest son and was born January 7, 1842. He was educated in the town schools and at the Providence Conference Seminary at East Greenwich, R. I. He had been in business about two years when the war broke out, and he enlisted in Company I, Seventh Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He served three years in the Army of the Potomac and after his discharge was employed by the War Department in various positions for four years. Then he received an appointment as an internal revenue officer in Virginia. This position he resigned in 1870 and the War Department gave him another in the quartermaster's department in Arizona. Four years later he was employed in the same capacity in Washington, D. C., and continued there until 1882. Upon resigning this latter position he went to Wyoming Territory and became interested in the business of cattle-raising, in which he is still engaged. On November 7, 1876, he married Mrs. Hattie F. Pierson, daughter of J. Q. A. Tresize, of Philadelphia. He is president of the Manhattan Cattle Company, formed in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

CHARLES E. HAYWARD was the son of Captain Abraham Hayward, who followed the seas for at least thirty years. He was captain of a privateer during the War of 1812 and a thorough hater of the English. The captain's father was Abraham Hayward, a resident of Boston, a clerk of old King's Chapel there, beneath which ancient building he is buried. Captain Hayward became a resident of this town and he married Mariette Daggett, by whom he had seven children. The subject of this sketch was born at North Attleborough, August 28, 1824. He had nothing but the common-school education of his day, and when seventeen years old became an apprentice to the firm of Tifft & Whiting, remaining with it for five years. For the two or three years subsequent to the close of his apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman, for two or three more for himself in his native village in manufacturing gold settings, and then he removed to the east part of the town.

Here he formed a partnership with several gentlemen, under the firm name of Thompson, Hayward & Co. They manufactured first at the Mechanics, but soon moved to more suitable quarters in the East village itself. This firm continued but four years, though in that time they established a good reputation and had a profitable trade. Mr. Hayward then formed the partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Jonathan Briggs, which continued for thirty years, the firm becoming very successful and maintaining always the most honorable reputation. In July, 1885, it was dissolved and Mr. Hayward's son entered business with his father, under the name of C. E. Hayward & Co. Being one of the pioneers in jewelry in this part of the town and continuing in it through so long a period, it may readily be seen that members of nearly all the firms of East Attleborough have been employed by him in some capacity. In 1867 he became one of the four

founders of the New York Watch Company of Providence, which was subsequently removed to Springfield, this State.

Mr. Hayward took a great interest in all matters pertaining to agricultural pursuits, stock-raising, fruit-growing, etc., and was one of the prime movers in organizing the Attleborough Farmers and Mechanics Association. He was one of the first trustees and the second president of the society. He was elected to that office, November 3, 1877, and he proved to be so well fitted for the position and performed its duties so acceptably that though for several years he presented his resignation and announced his refusal of a reëlection, the society would not listen to the one or accept the other, and he remained in the office until his death. Public offices of any kind were never desired by him, though he could have had all in the gift of his townsmen had he shown the inclination to accept them. If any were thrust upon him, he quietly accepted and did the required work well, as the success of the town fairs for years testified, a success largely due to his wise forethought and good judgment in arrangement and management. He was a highly esteemed member of Orient Lodge, No. 107, and of the Royal Arcanum, vice-president and director of the First National Bank of Attleborough, director in the Attleborough Gaslight Company, and a member of Woodlawn Cemetery Association.

On June 14, 1854, he married Charlotte E., daughter of George and Eliza Wheelwright, of Boston, who survives him.[1] They had two children: Florence M., Mrs. J. Lyman Sweet, and Walter E., both residents of this town. Mr. Hayward was brought up in the faith of the Universalist Church and was a firm adherent of its principles and beliefs, though without a shade of bigotry, as his liberality toward other denominations proves. "While *professing* very little religion, he *practiced* a great deal of it, and in a manner to win the regard of all Christians, Catholic as well as Protestant." He was one of the trustees of the Murray Universalist Parish and one of the leaders in the movement to establish a church of that denomination in this part of the town. He gave of time and means unsparingly to attain its success and to promote the interests of the society, and he occupied a place in it which cannot soon be filled. He was a stanch believer in temperance and a warm advocate of its cause.

He was never a robust man, and for many years suffered severely at times from asthma. This had increased as he grew older, and in the hope that a milder climate might bring some relief he started during the autumn previous to his death for California. He stayed there about five months, but received no real benefit, rather the reverse; and when he finally started for home health and strength were much reduced. His condition was not considered imminently serious until, after taking a severe cold from exposure

[1] Mrs. Hayward has since died.

on the way, he became alarmingly ill and it was feared by the friends accompanying him that he could not survive to reach the journey's end. Where possible, medical attendance was obtained, but doubtless it was the quiet but none the less resolute determination of the man himself that kept the feeble flame burning in his lamp of life until home was reached and the care which had rested heavily upon him uninterruptedly for so many long years could be transferred to others. This done, the failing strength refused to rally again and the flame burned quickly out. Friends "had planned to give Mr. Hayward a grand welcome" on his return, but instead, in a few days they gathered to pay the last earthly honors to his lifeless form. He died May 4, 1886, the upright man, the kind friend, the valuable citizen, the devoted husband, the loving father, the consistent Christian. The funeral was attended at his late residence, shops were closed, and business in the village was generally suspended while its people gathered together in throngs to show their sympathy and respect. His own pastor, the pastor of the First Universalist Church, and Rev. Mr. Illman, a former pastor, joined in conducting the sad services. All the organizations of which he was a member were represented, and the members followed him to his last resting-place in Woodlawn Cemetery, where "all that was mortal of one of the kindest and best men Attleboro' has known, was forever hid from sight."

A few extracts from the resolutions passed upon his death are here given: —

Resolved: That the Attleborough Farmers & Mechanics Association recognize with grateful pleasure Mr. Hayward's eminent and faithful services in its behalf, and to the varied industries of this his native town.

Resolved: That in the loss of an associate so upright, so genial, so helpful and so careful for others, we, the members of this Association, all feel a deep sense of personal bereavement.

At a special meeting of the First National Bank the following was adopted: —

Whereas, In the Providence of God, death has removed from our Board of Directors, Mr. Charles E. Hayward, whose membership commenced with the organization of the bank, therefore

RESOLVED, That we desire to put upon record our appreciation of Mr. Hayward, and that we deeply feel his loss. In our long intercourse with him, not only as Director, but also as a citizen, he won by uniform courtesy and gentlemanly bearing our highest esteem. Pure in life and honorable to the highest degree, gentle and sympathetic in his nature, he made fast friends with all who knew him.

In Memoriam.

Whereas, God in his infinite wisdom and always wise (although to us mysterious) providence, has removed by death our beloved employer, Charles E. Hayward, we, his employés, would hereby publicly express our deep grief for the great loss which we have individually suffered by reason of his death. We feel that we have not only lost a beloved employer, but an individual friend, one who was ever mindful of our wants, ever ready to give us advice and counsel when needed, and whose liberal hand was ever ready to lighten the burdens of life when they were weighing heavily upon us. He was a kind employer, a true friend, and an honest man; and the memory of his goodness and virtues will be with us as a pleasant remembrance to the end of life.

Signed,

The Employés of C. E. Hayward & Co.

It had been a pleasant custom with Mr. Hayward for some years to provide cooling refreshments for the Grand Army on Memorial Day, and they always made a halt at his residence to accept this grateful attention. In remembrance of this courtesy the following was placed among the Memorial Day General Orders for 1886: —

In recognition of the kindly interest ever shown in the welfare of this Post, by our late fellow citizen Charles E. Hayward, and as a mark of respect to his memory, it is hereby ordered that while passing his late residence, on Memorial Day, the band shall play a dirge, and the colors be dipped. By order,

E. D. Guild, Commander.

T. H. Annable, Post Adjutant.

This same custom has been remembered on both the Memorial Day anniversaries since the father's death, and been carried out by the thoughtful son.

Mr. Hayward was a man who attended to his own affairs and never meddled with those of others; but if his advice and counsel were asked, they were freely given, and probably no one in town was oftener thus sought than he. As he was quiet and unassuming in his words and ways, so he was in his deeds — his life was full of unobtrusive acts of kindness and helpful charity, many of which became known only when he was dead. The following extracts are taken here and there from the many sincere tributes paid to him soon after his death: —

He was universally respected, of sterling worth, of strict integrity, of pure ideas, of gentle yet active influence. Without any undue exertion in his life work he made a healthful impression on the community, and in the affairs to which he lent his aid. With no events of great prominence in his history, he maintained such an even disposition, such a faithful performance of his various duties, such an open nature towards his fellow-men, he performed so many little kindnesses and so many helpful deeds, that all feel his was a well rounded life, and that every one has lost a friend.

"In all respects," says another, "he was a model man, and his death is universally regarded as the greatest personal loss his town could experience." Again, — "In the death of Mr. Charles E. Hayward, Attleborough loses one of its most prominent and exemplary citizens. He was a man of spotless integrity, fair and candid in his judgments, generous and charitable toward all. His death will fall heavily upon his bereaved family, the organizations with which he was connected, and heavily too, in homes of poverty which his quiet and unobtrusive charity had ofttimes brightened. His influence will remain a constant reproof to the cheap ostentation and questionable business methods too prevalent in our times."

Justly entitled to the strong testimonials to his worth and strength of character, the peculiar feature of his nature was the manner in which he made every one feel that he entered sympathetically into his thoughts and needs and plans. Never obtruding counsel but always willingly and kindly giving it, never pushing for self-advantage but always ready to do his part, he made his influence more personal than that of almost any other man among us. His success in life, the result of frugal and industrious habits, should be a lesson to all young men looking eagerly forward to unacquired future prosperity. His purity of life and gentle ways show what force there may be in quiet assertion of manly dignity, and earnestness of purpose. He was not perfect for he was human, yet but few men exhibit so little of the weakness and failings of humanity as he, while such devotion as he manifested to the duties and trials that devolved upon him is rarely seen. Were he able to speak, he would deprecate with modesty the praise that is bestowed upon him. But gone forever from mortal sight, it is simple justice to pay the tributes of respect and affection which are being wreathed about his memory.

One who knew him most intimately says: —

"His disposition was very even, and I never remember that he was cross or nervous, amid all his perplexities, even when his children tried him in the various aggravating ways common to

childhood; and after that period he seemed more a companion to them than a parent. His life was a busy one and full of care from the time that he was sixteen years old, — for he always did a great deal for both relatives and friends. His success was due to industry, and to mechanical skill, of which he possessed a goodly share. The decline of his fortunes was owing to his having so many friends to whom he never refused aid when they solicited. His life was one of many cares and few enjoyments, and I am well convinced that care rather than disease caused his death." Another, who knew him well from his youthful days to the end of his life, paid not long since a beautiful tribute to his domestic character. In speaking of a well-known publication the person said: "I sometimes think I too would like from my own experience to write a book called 'Household Saints.' I have known about six in my life, and one of them was Charles E. Hayward."

Mr. Hayward's was indeed a life of rare unselfishness, and like the Master "he went about doing good." But, after summing up all he accomplished, his manifold kind acts, his public and private liberality, his business reputation, his financial prosperity, his high position in the community and the town, and his equally high standing wherever he was known, it remains to be said that the most remarkable feature of his whole life, that which portrays most clearly the greatest element in his character, his real pure, unselfishness, was his patient, cheerful, unceasing, unwearied devotion through twenty-five years to his wife, a hopeless invalid. Less he might have done, and yet have done his whole duty; more he could not have done, for at last he gave his life. A generation numbers few such men as he.

HOLMAN.

This family is of Welsh origin, the founders in this country being two brothers, who came with their family from Wales to the Bermuda Islands in 1670, and were there later seized by a pressgang. (These gangs were squads of men who went from place to place and by force put men and boys on board English vessels, where they were compelled to serve the English government.) Their ship being at one time near Newburyport, Mass., these brothers, Solomon and John, managed to escape, and so renounced British rule. Solomon settled in Newbury, this State, "married Miss —— of old York, and had four sons and three daughters." He and his family were among the original proprietors of that town. Edward was his second son, and he married Hannah Emory, of Newbury. They had eleven children, six sons and five daughters. Of these sons David was the third, and he married Lucy Thurston, of Uxbridge, Mass. He appears to have settled in the adjoining town of Sutton, in that part now known as Millbury, and here some at least of his twelve children were born. Nathan was the third son in this family, the first of the name in this town, to which he came as pastor of the Second Congregational Church, and is mentioned in the preceding account of that church and society. He married Lettice Morey, of Norton, by whom he had three children, two sons and one daughter, Mary H., who married Colonel Mason Stone, of Norton. She was his second wife, and after their marriage removed with him to Wisconsin. He was one of the

prominent members of the Congregational Church at Norton, and became a pioneer in forming a similar church in Prescott, Wis., where he first settled, and where he was for many years one of the deacons. This was in the days when log huts formed the dwelling-places of the people in that section, and the carrying on of such work under the rough and rude circumstances that surrounded him shows the real, earnest character of the man. Mr. Stone served in the army, and died in Ellsworth, Wis., December 3, 1887. His wife had died some years previous. Two sons and two daughters survive in Wisconsin, and William M. Stone, of this town, is another son, but by the first marriage.

SAMUEL MOREY HOLMAN, the oldest son of Rev. Nathan Holman, was born in this town, December 1, 1803. He received his education here, besides that afforded by the town schools probably receiving some instruction from his father, who for a number of years had a school in the East village. He gave instruction in the classics, and was a man of decided acquirements in the way of learning. After leaving school Mr. Holman became a farmer on his father's property, and has ever since continued in that occupation, his residence being on the home place only a few rods from the one built and occupied by the father, and later by the brother. Some sixty-odd years ago he was the postmaster, the second regular one appointed for the village. He has also at times held the offices of selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor. He was a member of the famous Washington Rifle Corps, and is a member of the Odd Fellows organization. He has attained the very unusual age of eighty-six, and is among the very oldest citizens of the town. He has seen two generations pass away, and another advance far on its course, yet his faculties are but little abated. He retains them to a remarkable degree, and his memory goes back clearly for three quarters of a century, to the War of 1812, of which time, and the years immediately succeeding, he recalls many interesting incidents, which he relates with the charm of manner characteristic of his family. His life has been an uneventful one. He has been fired by no restless ambition to do something great or to attract attention to himself, but, satisfied with the groove in which his lot was cast, it has been his aim just to do his duty as it presented itself day by day and year by year. Content with the moderate measure of worldly goods meted out to him, bearing his trials and accepting his joys alike with equanimity, he has walked his even way calmly and steadily, amid all the startling changes that have taken place around him during his nearly fourscore years and ten. Such men command the respect of everybody, and at all times the healthful influence of their evenly balanced lives is useful; and especially is this true nowadays, when a rushing excitement and a continual demand for something new are prevailing elements of our American society.

Mr. Holman has been married twice. His first wife was a Miss Lincoln,

of Norton, who died. April 14, 1860, he married Christina A. Hamlin, of West Falmouth, Mass. They have one son.[1]

Samuel M. Holman, Jr., was born January 1, 1862. He fitted for college and graduated at Amherst, intending to enter one of the professions, but was obliged to relinquish the idea on account of his health. He therefore decided to settle at home. He is a dealer in real estate, and also in wood and coal. January 1, 1886, he was married to Virtue E. Swift, of West Falmouth. They have one child, Grace Morey Holman.[2]

David Emory Holman, younger brother of the above, was born October 12, 1805, in the house where his entire life, with the exception of a few years, was passed. After the town schools he attended the Wrentham Academy, then well known and of excellent repute. Many Attleborough boys of that and a later period were students there, and, while we do not doubt they pursued their studies as good boys should, we are sure from the reminiscences we have heard that some of them at least were zealous in the pursuit of sport and highly successful in the playing of pranks. His fun-loving nature would place David Holman in the ranks of these merry lads, but his "jokes" would never absorb him to the neglect of duty or the serious annoyance of anyone, no matter how sensitive. After completing his studies he became a teacher, and as such met with good success. All who knew him would say this could scarcely be otherwise. He would have a most agreeable way of imparting instruction, good-humored patience in assisting the dull or urging the indolent pupils, and he could illustrate every knotty point or gloomy passage with an "experience," and fix facts and dates in treacherous memories with some apt, interesting story. He did not follow this profession of teaching, but entered business. The manufacture of straw bonnets had about this time commenced in this town or the vicinity, and he became interested in it. Later he opened a store in the Arcade, in Providence, and at the same time continued his bonnet-making.

In 1835–36 he was a representative to the Legislature. He was at this time only thirty years of age, the youngest man ever sent from this town, and one of the youngest, if not the very youngest, ever sent to that body. It is rare that the choice falls upon one so youthful, and when it does so fall it must show that the recipient of the honor has unusual ability. Mr. Holman joined the Washington Rifle Corps and when quite young became its captain, filling the position admirably. Upon the breaking out of the Rebellion he at once enlisted, and on June 15, 1861, received his commission as Major of the

[1] Mr. Holman died March 10, 1891, having reached the extreme age of eighty-seven years, three months, and nine days.

[2] They have had three children, the youngest of whom died. The second is a son, now Samuel M., Jr. Mr. Holman has within a few years commenced to take interest in town affairs, and been elected to office. He is at present the tax collector, 1893.

Seventh Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. He soon took the field with his regiment, but not long after he sustained a sunstroke and returned home. This accident rendered a temporary leave of absence from active duty not only advisable but necessary, but was not of itself and alone sufficient to prevent his returning to his regiment. Major Holman resigned his commission at the time he left the front, in August, 1861. His health was the reason made public, but the actual, underlying cause was jealousy manifested in the gross misrepresentation of certain facts. He had too keen a sense of honor and justice to retain an apparently false position, therefore he resigned, but with the hope and desire of being able to rejoin his regiment. He was subjected to much unjust criticism at home, accused of enlisting simply to induce others to do the same, and not from patriotic motives, and charged with cowardice and with seizing the first possible pretext for turning his back upon the enemy. He bore all these censures — these stigmas upon his character and courage — silently, because to tell the truth would have been to expose the unworthy conduct of others and their unjust treatment of him. He could endure reproach no matter what the cost to himself, but he could not stoop to retaliate. To "bear and forbear" was his invariable rule, and he indulged in no word of recrimination toward his accusers. He who has so far mastered himself as to be able to follow such a line of conduct as this undeviatingly has reached a high plane of living, and few attain it. To become a soldier did not change Major Holman's genial nature; he was always the same polite and affable gentleman. He recognized nothing derogatory to the dignity of an officer in the holding of friendly intercourse with the ranks when proper occasions offered. He always had a kind and cheery greeting for everyone in his regiment, for the subalterns, the privates, and the servants. This simple and to him natural politeness gained for him the goodwill and affection of the men, but at the same time caused jealousy among a few of the higher officers, who doubtless wished themselves to gain the same goodwill of the men but were unable or unwilling to pursue the same course, and they were ungenerous and unmanly enough to plot his removal. During the very early days of the war, petty personal matters played often quite important parts in army life, and sometimes, as in this instance, were never properly adjusted, and the blame fell where it was undeserved; but later, in the days of real struggling and fighting and deadly suffering, these were mostly let to fall into oblivion. There was in reality never a shadow of reason to doubt Major Holman's bravery or his true patriotism. This is the testimony of an officer in the Seventh Regiment, himself a brave and loyal man, and able to appreciate those qualities in another. It is from him that the facts in the case have been received, and it is with a real personal pleasure they are here given to the public.

The following resolutions, and their acknowledgment by Major Holman, speak for themselves: —

Headquarters 7th. Reg. Mass. Vol. Co. I,
Washington, D. C., Aug. 29th, 1861.

Resolved — That by the resignation of Maj. David Holman, and Lieut. Wm. W. Fisher, of Attleboro', we have met with a loss which is most deeply felt by us all.

Resolved — That by the mild, gentlemanly deportment, and unexceptionable character, which they have invariably sustained while here, they have gained the love and esteem of all with whom they came in contact.

Resolved — That we do most heartily approve of the manly spirit which prompted their resignation, and trust that their reception at home will be such as is due to men of unquestioned bravery, who early and earnestly devoted themselves to their country's call.

Voted — That a copy of these Resolutions be forwarded to the *Attleboro' Weekly News*, and also to the *Taunton Gazette*, for publication.

Attleboro' Sept. 9th, 1861.

My dear Sir.

Allow me to thank you, and through you, your companions in arms, for the complimentary resolutions referring to myself and Lieut. Fisher, which appeared in the *Taunton Gazette* of last week, — be assured though far away from you, your manly forms seem always passing before me. Your cheerful recognition as we met can never be forgotten by me, and will ever be remembered with pleasure, — but the event that separated us has caused me more sorrow than any other event of my life, — in the delirium of the moment I did not think of the sad consequences that would follow my resignation, — that I was to pass away from you alone, — for I had fondly hoped that when our work was done that I should have the pleasure of presenting you all to our friends at home. But this I fear is not now to be my pleasant lot, — though I have sometimes vainly hoped that something might occur to send me back to you again. Once again I thank you, and as you pass about the camp, please remember me kindly to all, not forgetting even the servants.

Yours truly,

D. E. Holman.

This letter was addressed to Lieutenant William H. Wade, then a sergeant in Company I. It should silence all doubt as to the writer's wish to return to his regiment, as the resolutions should prove the uprightness of his conduct.

All prospect of his being able to return to his command having come to an end, he went soon after to England. The climate of that country proved agreeable and beneficial to him and he removed his straw-works to London, where he continued his manufacturing in this line for quite a number of years. He retired from active business in 1873, and during the remaining ten years of his life he lived quietly at the old homestead and interested himself in the personal care of his farm lands.

"In person Maj. Holman was of commanding presence, being tall, vigorous in frame, and of marked military bearing. His stalwart form which never seemed that of an old man, has often attracted notice in the processions on Memorial Day; he was a member of W. A. Streeter Post, G. A. R., and always joined them in their memorial offices." He was an unusually courteous man, — one of great urbanity of manner, but withal perfect sincerity. He possessed friendly feelings for all mankind, hatred was a thing unknown to his nature. He was always saying pleasant words, always doing kind deeds. His manners, — the same to all classes, high or low, rich or poor — never changed because they were a portion of himself. He was brought up

in the old school of politeness, when children were taught to treat their elders and superiors with respect, — to rise when their parents or elders entered a room where they were, "to bow to aged people and strangers in the streets, to formulate a polite speech when sent out on an errand, and to answer every one, even their own parents, with 'yes, ma'am,' and 'yes, sir'"; but, back of and beyond all outward training and example was the something innate which made him one of "nature's noblemen," — a born gentleman.

His social qualities were very uncommon. The tones of his voice were musical and expressive, his choice of words apt, his language refined, and his mind was stored with countless incidents and experiences which he had the faculty of appropriating readily to whatever might be the subject of conversation. He made himself agreeable to young and old alike, and became a chief attraction in whatever circle he entered. His faculty for telling stories was indeed remarkable, and the fund was apparently inexhaustible. Each one had a special point, and fitted with such peculiar exactness the place into which he put it that it made a description perfect, which without it would have seemed unfinished, or a question discussed quite clear, that, wanting such an anecdote to explain it, might have been misunderstood. There is an old house in town at whose fireside in the years gone by Major Holman was a frequent and always a welcome visitor, for he and its owner were lifelong intimate friends. Again and again, after spending an hour or two there engaged in business talk or pleasant chat, he has risen and prepared to return home by putting on his greatcoat, but before he could get it buttoned some amusing anecdote would suddenly occur to him proper to relate just then and there, and this would pave the way for another and another and another, and leaning on the chimneypiece, hat in hand, he has told story after story, himself and his listeners thoroughly absorbed and interested and totally oblivious of the lapse of time until the clock-hands pointed closely to the small hours of the morning. His style was inimitable; it was quiet and not dramatic, and his face in repose was somewhat serious, but it was easily lighted up; and the playful twinkle of his eye as he proceeded with his tale, and his low but hearty laugh, spread an irresistible contagion of merriment all around.

Charming and entertaining as a guest, he was equally so as a host. From the first the "Holman house" has been known as an "open house," one of general and generous entertainment. Among the pleasantest of the many pleasant records found on the clerk's book of the Washington Rifle Corps are those relating to certain meetings just preceding the sham fight near the East village, which some of the old people still remember. Mr. Holman, then captain, announced to the company that on the day of the fight "they could dine at father's," and we are told that this invitation was gladly accepted and that some thirty or forty men sat down to a bountiful repast just before the battle. The mantle of the father fell upon the son, and the

reputation he established in this direction was well maintained. Indeed the hospitable doors of that mansion were never closed; a room in it was always ready for strangers, — clergymen or lecturers, whoever they might be, — while a large circle of relatives and friends were always gathering within its walls, as well as the simple acquaintances at home and from abroad. All who crossed that threshold received a cordial welcome which placed them at their ease, while host and hostess vied with each other in their charming, graceful way to make the hours pass pleasantly for their guests. During many years this house was the centre of hospitality in the village, and sad indeed was that event which broke up this pleasant home and made those days of bright social intercourse only things of the past.

Mr. Holman was especially fond of his family and home, and the ties of kinship were with him peculiarly strong and binding. For eighty years he and his brother lived side by side — sometimes in the same house — with a loving fellowship and a close unanimity which are very rare. He had deep and decided religious feelings, but never fashioned his creed exactly after the pattern of any one special sect, and therefore never identified himself with any church as a member. His last illness, which was caused by a disease of the heart, confined him to the house about four weeks, but was not considered imminently fatal until two days before his death. His cheerfulness triumphed over all suffering; to the very last his mind recalled bright reminiscences, and his ready tongue responded, bringing smiles to the lips of physician and attending friends, though all realized the seriousness of the situation. To such a man death is not a "king of terrors," but simply an inevitable experience to be met with the same undisturbed serenity as are the ordinary affairs of daily life. Major Holman died December 10, 1883, and thus one of the most honorable of men and one of the most worthy citizens the town has ever had passed away.

In 1848 he married Charlotte J. Balcom, who since his death has removed to New York City to reside. They had three children: a daughter, who died young, and two sons. Of these S. Frank, the younger, is an artist, and for some years has spent the greater portion of his time in Paris, France, where he has been a pupil in *L'Ecole des Beaux Arts*. His residence in this country is with his brother in New York. [He has attained a considerable reputation.]

D. Emory Holman, M.D., the older son, was born April 17, 1852. He attended the public schools in town, graduating at the High School, and then took the course at the Mowry & Goff Preparatory or Classical School, in Providence. He entered Brown University and graduated there with the degrees of A.B. and A.M. in 1876. He received his medical degree from the Long Island College Hospital in 1880. He was a Deputy Health Officer of Lower Bay, N. Y., in 1884, and has been a member of the Health Board of New York City, in which place he has been practising his profession during

the several years since he obtained his degree. In December, 1886, he married Sarah Palmer Round, daughter of Dr. Round, of Norton.

Handsome, brilliant, and accomplished, she had made for herself friends and admirers wherever she had been. During the few months of her residence in New York she had especially endeared herself to her new family by her lovely character, and by her attractive qualities she had won for herself numerous friends there and become a favorite to an unusual degree for one so young entering an entire stranger into the society of so large a city. She had more than common literary ability, as her contributions to the papers of a literary society of which she was a member showed, as well as her translations from foreign works. Bright anticipations of usefulness and happiness filled her future; but death soon "marked her for his own," and so swiftly and ruthlessly did he follow his fatal messenger of disease that its presence was scarcely realized before his final blow was struck. Human skill was powerless, and in a few hours the sparkling, heathful life had gone out struck down like a vigorous and beautiful flower blasted by the breath of some poisonous vapor. With the body of her infant son in her arms she was borne to her country home and thence to the Old Kirk Yard here, where in the gloom and chill of a sunless October afternoon she was laid in her grave. The sombre surroundings were fitting, for this spot so wonted to sad sights never witnessed a sadder burial than this, and we may be pardoned for placing here a word of tribute and an expression of sorrow for the sudden ending of this fair young life just as it had begun.

HORTON.

The first thing known of the Horton family is the fact that about 1640 three brothers of that name came to this country from England. One of these was John, who settled in Rehoboth and married Mehetabel Gamzey, by whom he had five sons and three daughters. Jotham, the second son and child, married a Miss Rounds and had seven children. Of these the third child and oldest son was James. He and a younger brother, Barnett, "lived in Rehoboth, and served in the Revolution, James being lieutenant." He was born July 18, 1741, and died August 10, 1833. He was a vigorous and active man, as is evidenced by the fact that he attained the remarkable age of ninety-two. His wife was Freelove Pierce, or Price, and they had eleven children, all of whom lived to be old, with the exception of two. Cromwell, the second son but eighth child, was born February 23, 1777, and died in 1861. He married Percy Martin and had seven children. Of these Gideon M. was the second son and child and was born in Rehoboth, May 4, 1804. He married Mary Smith, November 4, 1832, by whom he had four children: Everett S., Edwin J., Gideon M., and James J. His second wife was Mrs. Julia Jackson, of Middleborough, Mass. He died in this town — the first to settle here — March 7, 1861. "He was an upright man and honest citizen,

ever ready to aid and forward any good work. He kept a country store in Attleborough for years. He was never possessed of much of this world's goods, but gave his children the wealth of good advice and the example of honest industry, coupled with true charity and Christian devotion, a legacy more precious than gold."

EVERETT SOUTHARD HORTON, of the sixth generation in this country, and the oldest child in his family, was born June 15, 1836. He attended school until he was sixteen, when he became assistant in his father's store. He occupied that position until the father's health failed, when he took entire charge of the business and continued it until after the breaking out of the war. On June 12, 1861, he was married to Mary Ann Carpenter, only daughter of Jesse R. and Mary Carpenter, of this town. Their only child was Mary Edith — Mrs. Thomas Gardner, of this town.

During the spring of 1862, having disposed of his business, Mr. Horton with others recruited a company of nine months' men, and on the election of its officers in September of the same year he became its second lieutenant, soon receiving his commission from Governor Andrew. His natural earnestness and resolution showed themselves in this new occupation, for he quickly mastered the drill and learned his duties as an officer. He went into camp with his company at Boxford, this State, where in September, 1862, they were mustered into the United States service as Company C, Forty-seventh Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. They were soon ordered to New York and into camp on Long Island, from thence, in December, embarking for New Orleans, La., where they arrived January 1, 1863, and were assigned with other regiments to provost duty in and around that city. Upon the resignation of the captain of Company C, which occurred about this time, Lieutenant Horton, "by a large majority of the votes of the company," was chosen his successor. This nine months' service was extended to nearly a year, for it was not until August, 1863, that Captain Horton reached home with his men. The following letters show the estimation in which he was held by his superior regimental officers: —

Boston, September 14th, 1863.

Capt. Everett S. Horton.
Co. C, 47th Mass. Vol.

Dear Capt.

It gives pleasure for me to certify to your good conduct and prompt obedience of orders, and I most cheerfully recommend you as one well qualified to command a company, being well posted in Casey's Tactics, with good natural, as well as acquired abilities as a commander, and trust that the country may still have your services.

I remain, Very truly yours,

Lucius B. Marsh, Col.
47th. Mass. Vol.

Boston, Sept. 16th, 1863.

Captain,

In parting from you permit me to express my appreciation of your services while under my command. Gen'l Banks and Gen'l Emery have both authorized me to say the same for them

in regard to the 47th Regiment and its conduct while in the department of the Gulf. May the choicest of heaven's blessings ever rest upon you and those who have been under your command is the prayer of

Your Ob't Servant,

Lucius B. Marsh, Col.
47th. Mass. Vol.

To
E. S. Horton, Capt.
Co. C, 47th. Mass. Vol.

Very soon after his return came Governor Andrew's call for more troops, and Mr. Horton responded again, receiving a commission as second lieutenant and the position of recruiting officer for the Fifty-eighth Massachusetts Volunteers. He opened an office in town but was soon ordered to camp to take charge of recruits for the regiment there. Here he was commissioned "Capt. of Co. C, 58th. Reg. Mass. Vet. Vol." After about six months in camp at Readville he went to the front and became a participant in the memorable "Battles of the Wilderness." "After the battle of Cold Harbor, Lieut. Col. J. C. White, commanding the regiment, recommended Capt. Horton for promotion, and he was mustered into service as major. The commander of the regiment was wounded in a charge June 3d, and until Sept. 30, 1864, the command devolved on Maj. Horton. On the last mentioned day, while leading the regiment in action a few miles south of Petersburg, he was made a prisoner, and October 3d, reached Richmond and Libby." He was confined there until October 8, then sent to Salisbury, N. C., where he remained until the 19th, and finally to Danville, Va., where he was kept until January 27, 1865. At that time he was selected as a hostage and sent back to Libby, where on February 22, literally a birthday of freedom to him and his companions, he and many others were paroled and sent to the Union lines.

The following are his own words in describing the horrors of Libby: "Pen never can write the whole truth, and if it could be told, no one could believe that it was possible for men to survive it, or possible that any one in the 19th century could be guilty of such barbarities." Again his own words are given, describing his feelings when once more under the Union flag: "I can never forget that day, *never*, NEVER, NEVER. No one that has not experienced the same sensations can know aught of the peculiar emotions and thoughts that came in throngs in seeing and knowing that once more I was under the Star Spangled Banner. Under their influence I wrote this letter to my family from the deck of the flag-of-truce boat, where each of us was handed a sheet of paper and envelope. My family had not heard from me for five months, and the newspapers had reported me dead: 'On board God's flag-of-truce boat, James River, Feb. 22, 1865. Dear Wife, — Out of the jaws of death, out of the gates of hell. Once more in the land of the living. Well. Love to all. Everett.'" He was granted a furlough of thirty days, was soon exchanged, and left home after a short visit to rejoin

his regiment in Virginia on the day that Petersburg was captured. He was soon ordered to Washington, where he was on duty until he was mustered out of service.

June 12, 1865, he was detailed as Division Inspector, Second Division, Ninth Army Corps, by command of Brevet Major-General O. B. Willcox and John D. Bartolette, Assistant Adjutant-General. The following letter speaks for itself: —

Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 9th. Ar. Corps.
Near Alexandria, Va.
July 13, 1865.

This is to certify that Major E. S. Horton commanded his regiment (58 Mass. Vl.) in all the Battles, and on all occasions, from June 3rd to the engagement of Peebles Farm, September 30th 1864, when he was captured by the Enemy.

Dear Major,

It is with pleasure I extend to you my high appreciation for the very efficient and successful manner [in] which you on all occasions command your regiment, and the promptness and cheerfulness with which you have performed your every duty whilst under my command.

Wishing you success,

I remain, Very truly yours,
Jno. C. Curtin,
Br't Brig. General.

"During his service Major Horton received seven commissions, and was mustered into service on six of them. He was a gallant soldier, doing all his duty, and as an officer, while strict in discipline, he looked well after the comfort of his men, and was universally popular both with officers and soldiers. There is in his nature that which indicates the impetuosity, dash, and rapidity of execution of a successful cavalry officer, with a coolness of judgment which prevents boldness from degenerating into rashness."

Shortly after the close of the war he became manager of the establishment of Davids & Cornell in Providence, the largest wholesale grocery house in Rhode Island, but continued his residence in this town. He remained in that position until 1880, when, by the death of his brother, a place in the firm of Horton, Angell & Co. became vacant, which he took and is now the senior partner in the concern. Since its organization he "has been much interested in the G. A. R. and has contributed largely in maintaining the thriving post established in Attleboro." He has been its commander several times and also commander of the Bristol County Association of the G. A. R. He is a commissioner of the Attleborough Water Supply District Sinking Fund, a trustee of the Richardson School Fund, has been secretary of the same, and is now its president; he is a director of the Attleborough Savings and Loan Association and president of the Attleborough Library Association.

His first wife died June 21, 1871. On September 24, 1873, he was married to Eliza Dutton Fremont, of Amesbury, Mass., by whom he has had two children: Gertie E., born May 29, 1876, and Addie D., who died while an infant.

EDWIN J. HORTON, the second son, was born November 10, 1837. Of his boyhood and youth there is comparatively little to be said. He attended the public schools of the town, receiving no further advantages in the way of instruction, but he possessed an active mind, one bent on inquiry; and realizing the benefits of a good education, he determined to do the best he could in this direction for himself. With him a determination was also an accomplishment and he improved every opportunity for reading, study, and observation and "became in reality a thoroughly informed man." August 17, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Fortieth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers, and for three years was a good soldier, receiving his discharge June 17, 1865. This time excepted, his entire life was spent in his native village.

A few years after the close of the war the well-known firm of Horton, Angell & Co. was organized and started in manufacturing. Of this firm Mr. Horton was the senior member — may properly be called its originator — and to him, no doubt, its marked success and continued prosperity was in a large measure due. He was a member of many organizations and at various times held important offices in them. He was deeply interested in the Young Men's Christian Association and was its president at the time of his death; he was especially attached to the G. A. R. and to his own Post, faithful in the discharge of its duties, earnest in labors for its well-being, and a loved member of the order; he was a member of Ezekiel Bates Lodge of F. and A. M. and of the Royal Arcanum, and at the time of his death was Noble Grand of Orient Lodge, I. O. O. F. He was a member of the Second Congregational Church, thoroughly interested in its welfare and foremost in its benevolent enterprises.

May 8, 1862, he married Addie Lee, by whom he had two children. The elder died when quite young, before the father; the younger, Raymond M., is still living. He spared neither time nor money to make his home attractive, and to the influences emanating from that home the position he attained in the community was in no small measure due. In 1879 he represented the town in the Legislature and was a member of the House Committee on Health. In all municipal affairs he was an active participant and ever urging forward works of progress and reform. His principles were known of men and he was firm in his adherence to them. Having made up his mind to the right of a position or course of action, he boldly advocated the one and unswervingly followed the other. Such a man must make his mark in his community but he inevitably gains at least political enemies, as was the case with Mr. Horton, though the fact that he was elected to one of the highest offices in the power of his fellow-citizens to bestow — an election "won in one of the severest political contests ever recorded for this town" — is undeniable proof that he possessed the respect and confidence of a majority.

June 11, 1880, he was drowned in that awful disaster which followed the collision of the Sound steamers, Narragansett and Stonington. His funeral

occurred June 15 at the Congregational Church. During the time of the services all shops and stores were closed and there was a general suspension of business; flags were displayed at halfmast, buildings were draped in black, and crowds far beyond the capacity of the church to accommodate were gathered together. Rarely, if ever, has there been seen a more saddened assemblage or the manifestation of more sincere and widespread mourning. The then pastor of the church, Rev. W. A. Spaulding, and two former pastors, the Revs. F. N. Peloubet and Samuel Bell, were the officiating clergymen. All the orders of which Mr. Horton was a member were in attendance and there were delegations from similar orders in other parts of the town and from other places, and the offerings of flowers were varied and most beautiful. The sympathy was heartfelt and the sorrow sincere for this untimely death. Many friends followed the funeral procession to Woodlawn Cemetery and kind hands had gone before and spread a fair covering of evergreens and roses over the unsightly surroundings of the open grave. On the Decoration Day just previous to his death Mr. Horton had expressed a wish to be buried by the G. A. R. This wish was remembered and he was lowered to his last resting-place by the hands of his former comrades in arms and received the burial rites of the soldier's order.

A fitting summary of his life and character may be found in the following extracts from the written words of various friends: —

That man is an exception who so lives that at his death all classes in the community where he was born and has spent all his days will sincerely mourn his departure and pay tribute to his memory in unfeigned sympathy. That life which can and does command universal respect must indeed have much of merit in it. That character which while from its positiveness makes enemies, can stand squarely before all their attacks, has more than ordinary strength. Such a man was Edwin J. Horton; such a life he lived, and such a character was his.

He was an uncommon man in many ways, as a business man with wonderful fertility of resource and skill of execution, as a deeply conscientious and highly religious nature, and a man of unbounded charity. It seems almost unaccountable that just in the prime of life, when the activities of his being were accomplishing so much good, the chapter of his life should close so sadly and abruptly, leaving many to mourn his untimely death, but to the question "Why?" comes no answer.

He grew from boyhood to manhood and entered business with a determination to succeed, and he did succeed. He was always foremost in matters of public enterprise, and ready to assist in private undertakings where help was needed. No one ever went to him for advice or assistance and was turned away without a hearing. If he could give the one, and furnish the other, both were cheerfully granted. It may safely be recorded that no business man of Attleborough bestowed more of his material substance for the support of public institutions and for the friendly succor of individuals, than Mr. Horton. Perhaps the society that will most miss his aid and counsel is the Young Men's Chr. Asso. of which he was president during the last year of his life, and which looked to him for the larger portion of the money needed for its support. The same liberality was manifested in his gifts to the church, the Grand Army of the Republic, and other organizations of which he was a member. He was emphatically a self-made man. He arrived at a position of wealth and influence by dint of indomitable energy and perseverance in the short space of ten years. Few men have prospered so rapidly, and few men have shared their prosperity so freely and unstintedly with the community in which they lived.

This work of charity and liberality has by no means ceased, but is nobly and loyally carried on by his wife, though often so quietly as to be known only to those who are personally benefited. "No member of the House of Representatives shared more largely in the esteem and confidence of the other members of that body than Mr. Horton; and no speaker was listened to with closer attention."

"He had his failings, and none knew them better than his friends, but his virtues far out-weighed them, and endeared him to the hearts of most with whom he came in contact." His death occurred in one of the world's awful tragedies, and it left a wide gap in the ranks of our active, worthy citizens, a vacant place "hard to fill."

GIDEON M. HORTON, the third son, was born September 26, 1839. Like his brothers, he attended the town schools, which were his only means of instruction, and like the two older ones he entered the army, serving in the Tenth Rhode Island Battery. He was one of the original members of the firm of Horton, Angell & Co., and became a prosperous business man. He manifested his public spirit by erecting, at a cost of fully $36,000, the business block bearing his name, for, while it and its fellows are primarily business enterprises, they adorn their surroundings, and this one especially adds to the attractive appearance of the village of Attleborough.

Mr. Horton was a member of Bristol Lodge of F. and A. M.; of King Hiram Chapter of Attleborough Council, and of Bristol Commandery; of the Royal Arcanum and Pennington Lodge, A. O. U. W. He was also a member of Orient Lodge, I. O. O. F., its first Noble Grand, and a member of Naomi Encampment of Taunton. He was a trustee of the Farmers and Mechanics Association and an active and efficient member, a director of the First National Bank, and belonged to the Merchants and Manufacturers Association and to William A. Streeter Post, G. A. R. "For some years he had been detailed on Memorial Day with his friend and companion, Mr. Fred. Newell, to decorate graves in some of the districts difficult to get at, and it will be with genuine grief, that his comrades, on next Memorial Day, will place the flag and flowers above his grave."

For some years previous to his death he had been interested in stock-raising, and was one of the owners in a large cattle-ranch in Dryden, Pecoe County, Texas. This ranch contains some 6,000 acres, and has on it about 5,000 head of cattle and 1,000 horses. Mr. Horton owned and controlled a fourth part. About twelve or thirteen years ago he began to experience the first admonitions of failing health, but no very serious results followed until three or four years since, when the presence of disease in the lungs unmistakably manifested itself. After this time he took extended journeys in various directions, in that way avoiding the rigors of New England winters and receiving some degree of benefit from these changes, the climate of such places as Mexico, California, and the Sandwich Islands proving agreeable

and in a measure restorative. More imminent danger to life became assured a few months before his death and he was ordered to leave New England as soon as possible. Delays from one cause or another, however, occurred, and when at last he was ready for the necessary journey it was too late to expect any lengthy or decided improvement. Mr. Horton was himself aware of this, but realizing that it is everyone's duty to live as long as he possibly can, he made all the necessary preparations, arranged his business affairs, and bravely started to meet the death he felt soon awaited him, but might be a little longer delayed in a milder clime. The man who cheerfully speaks parting words with his dearest friends, and, looking for the last time on familiar scenes and loved faces, turns from them hopeless, yet with a smile, to seek the almost impossible lengthening of his life, has in him something of the heroic, and Mr. Horton did this. He had attained success at middle life; he had made for himself a beautiful home, and he could rightly look forward to many years of enjoyment in it and to years of usefulness in his community, in the sharing, as he did generously, of the results of his industry with those about him. To give up such hopes requires courage, and he possessed it, for he fought out the fight, and could say to his friends calmly, even cheerfully, in view of the end, that it was well.

Accompanied by physician and intimate friend he pursued his journey south and arrived safely at San Antonio, Texas. Here he rallied sufficiently for the doctor to leave him, but very soon after the last fatal symptoms appeared and the end came speedily. He died in San Antonio, December 16, 1886. His body was brought home, and the funeral services attended at his late residence on December 23 following. Agreeably to his wish the ceremonies were very simple, but the attendance of people was general and the mourning sincere. His pastor, Rev. H. A. Philbrook, conducted the services, assisted by Rev. Walter Barton, and he was buried at Woodlawn.

November 29, 1865, he married Helen F. White, of this town. She died August 28, 1885. Their two daughters, Mary and Mabel Horton, survive, and reside in town.[1] Mr. Horton was highly esteemed as a public-spirited and useful man, and he was a man of many friends. His nature was retiring, and he was entirely without ambition for public preferment, but always shared liberally in whatever way he could in the advancement both of his community and town. He was generous in the societies to which he belonged, and in supplying the wants of the needy around him. Probably no man in town did more quiet, unseen deeds of real charity than he. One writes thus: "It is easy to say the familiar words, that it is hard to find a man that will be more missed when departed, but in the case of Gideon M. Horton the words have a literal application. It is hard to speak too strongly of Mr. Horton's excel-

[1] The former married Samuel H. Smith, a lawyer, and resides in Arlington, this State; the latter married Dr. José Ourlan, of Providence. She is now a widow.

lence, or of the estimation in which he was held by all who knew him. He made all feel as though he was interested in them, and seemed to be eager for an opportunity to help. A good and a useful man has gone. It will be a long time before the town will have a better man, or a better citizen."

JAMES J. HORTON, the youngest of these four brothers, was born in Providence, October 19, 1841, during a temporary residence of his father in that city. His birth occurred under the old charter granted by King Charles the Second to the "Rhode Island and Providence Plantations." This last charter was granted in 1663 and continued to be the constitution of the State for a hundred and seventy-nine years, until 1842, when after the Dorr insurrection it was given up. In that year Mr. Horton returned to his former residence in this town, James being then about a year old. Like his brothers he received his education here, but he had the pleasure of being a pupil of Mr. Bailey, under whom and Mr. Allen his schooldays were finished. After this he worked for a year on his father's farm, but for some time subsequent he was unable to engage in work of any kind, owing to the failure of his health, and his courage and determination to conquer his feebleness and the disease that attacked him have been remarkable, and many prophesied impossible.

Upon recovering in a measure he started in mercantile business in Providence, but finally entered the jewelry business in this town, where he is a member of the firm of Short, Nerney & Co. Like his brothers he has been prosperous, and like them he makes good use of his money. He is a member of Orient Lodge, I. O. O. F., and a director in the First National Bank. Mr. Horton's disposition is, like his brother Gideon's, retiring, and he deprecates prominence for himself in any way, for the sake of prominence; but he fulfils the duties that devolve upon him with fidelity. He has made for himself an excellent reputation as a man of integrity and reliability in business affairs, — one of good judgment and equally to be trusted in all other matters, — while his courteous manners and affable bearing make him an agreeable social companion and friend. January 12, 1869, he married Emily Howland Clark, of Middleborough, Mass. They have no children.

It is somewhat singular that these four brothers — the entire family — should all have settled for life in their native town, all finally have engaged in the same business, and all become successful in it. It is singular too that all made homes for themselves on the same street, within "a stone's throw" of the old homestead and of each other. The site of this homestead is occupied by the residence of James, the old house having been moved away, but not destroyed. It is still kept and well cared for, valued as a relic of the past, and especially prized for its many personal associations. There are, too, rather peculiar similarities and contrasts in the men themselves. The two older ones were bold and fearless, men of "push" and stirring vigor, characteristics which their experiences of army life doubtless inten-

sified; while the two younger ones were unobtrusive and shrank from all public or prominent activity, though neither was lacking in courage or determination, which both could show in a more undemonstrative way. The two middle ones are gone, while the oldest and youngest remain and live side by side. In these days of restless longing to get far away from home to seek fortune it is a pleasure to note one family of boys that grew up together who were loyal enough to their native place and to each other to attempt life there together, and it is a pleasure also to note their success.

HUNT.

Rev. Samuel Hunt was born at the village of Lanesville, in this town, March 18, 1810. The family were of English origin, the members who came to this country settling first at Weymouth. Some of them came from there to Rehoboth among the early settlers of that town, and one of the name was the owner of one of the original shares of the Rehoboth North Purchase, and no doubt some of his descendants came to this town. Mr. Hunt's father was Deacon Richard Hunt, of the Oldtown Church, and in his family, which consisted of four sons and one daughter, he was the oldest. He assisted his father on the farm in his boyhood days; but he had been consecrated by that father to the ministry and his education was therefore commenced and completed with that end in view. He was educated partly at a classical school at West Attleborough, kept by a Mr. Wheaton, a graduate of Brown University. It was here that he commenced the study of the languages, and while in this school — in the long past — the writer of this brief memoir recalls that he sat for most of the time by Mr. Hunt's side. After this he completed his preparatory studies at the Wrentham Academy. He entered Amherst College in 1828, and graduated in the class of 1832, the first graduate from this town at that institution.

He commenced teaching at the early age of sixteen, and continued this occupation, in which he was most successful, through his college course and for some time after his graduation. He taught in the academies at Southampton, Mass., and Southampton, L. I., and after this commenced his theological studies at Princeton, completing them with Rev. Dr. Ide, in West Medway. He was licensed to preach in August, 1838, and after supplying the pulpit at Mansfield, the adjoining town, he was installed as pastor over the Congregational Church at Natick, in this State. Here he remained eleven years. In December, 1850, he was installed over the church in Franklin, where he was pastor about fourteen years — over the same society where the eminent Dr. Emmons officiated so long. After this Mr. Hunt retired from the pastoral ministry and became engaged in the service of the American Missionary Society, and labored for three years in establishing schools for the education of the freedmen. He worked with persistent and conscientious zeal in the temperance cause, and every mission work found in him "an earnest advocate."

From a published notice of his death the following extracts are made: —

"In the early years of his ministry he accepted the doctrines of the Abolitionists and became the outspoken friend of the slave; and that, too, at a time when it meant much, even personal persecution and violence to espouse the cause, and openly oppose the claims of the slave-holding States. It was in this connection that his friendship with Henry Wilson arose, when, as young men, they commenced laboring together for the overthrow of slavery."

"In 1868, Mr. Hunt accepted the position of clerk of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, of which his old friend Henry Wilson was chairman. He retained this position until Mr. Wilson became Vice-President, when he became his private secretary. With Mr. Wilson he remained until the former's death. With him he planned and wrote the Rise and Fall of the Slave Power in America, a work requiring great research and years of patient labor. This work was not completed when Mr. Wilson died. The writing of the third volume with the arrangement of the index devolved upon Mr. Hunt alone."

After finishing this work he made preparations to publish a collection of Henry Wilson's writings and letters, with a sketch of his political life, and had projected and worked upon several other books. While in Franklin he compiled and published the "Puritan Hymn and Tune Book," and for many years previous to his death he had written much for the public press.

Mr. Hunt married Mary Foster, daughter of Major Josiah Foster, of Southampton, L. I., who died in that place December 20, 1849. They had five children: M. Agnes, Samuel C., Benjamin F., Abby C., and Eliot, of whom only the two daughters survive. Samuel was a soldier of the Civil War — enlisted in Franklin, was a sergeant in Company C, Forty-fifth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, and died in Phœnix, Arizona, July 9, 1877. On April 11, 1853, Mr. Hunt married Mrs. Abby B. Slocum, who died in Franklin, April 24, 1862. His third wife, whom he married June 12, 1877, was Mrs. R. T. Homer, of Boston, who survives him. After his last marriage he resided in Boston, where he died July 23, 1878. "In his private life he was respected by all who knew him for his quiet, dignified and gentlemanly bearing. Dying, he leaves a large circle of friends who hold him in the highest esteem. His life closed with nothing left undone; with nothing done to be regretted." His funeral services were attended in the church at West Attleborough, of which he was a member, by Rev. John Whitehill, the pastor, assisted by Rev. Jacob Ide, of Mansfield, and thus he returned to his old home to sleep well, after life's fitful fever was over.

Eliot Hunt, son of Samuel and Mary Foster Hunt, was born in Natick, this State, May 22, 1847. His name was in memory of that famous apostle to the Indians, John Eliot, who was one of the early settlers of Natick. Mr. Hunt's boyhood was passed at Franklin, where his father was for so long

a time the pastor of one of the churches. From the schools of that town he went to the academy at East Hampton, Mass., and later to that in South Berwick, Maine, at which place he completed his education. In 1866 his father returned to the old homestead in the south part of this town and Eliot and his two sisters accompanied him. Here the young man assumed entire charge of the farm, and during two winters taught school at South Attleborough. In November, 1872, he left home to accept the position of a teacher in the school he had formerly attended at South Berwick, but returned to town the following spring, when he became connected with the *Chronicle*.

October 14, 1874, he married Stella M., a daughter of Carlos and Cynthia Barrows, of South Attleborough. She died in March, 1885, surviving her husband less than two years. The two children, Carl and Shirley, are both living, the former with his maternal aunt and grandmother, at South Attleborough, the latter with her father's two sisters at Somerville, this State. Mr. Hunt had purchased a residence in East Attleborough, which he occupied directly after his marriage, and thus established himself as a citizen of that village so far as his domestic interests were concerned, though he was always in the highest and best sense emphatically a citizen of the town.

What he was to his paper, to his friends, and to the town is best told in the words of the *Chronicle*, from whose columns of September 15, 1883, we quote the following: —

It becomes our painful duty to announce to our readers and the public the death of the proprietor and publisher of this paper. His pen is laid aside; his busy brain is still; his work is done, his long struggle ended, and Eliot Hunt has passed to his final resting place. Long and desperate as had been his illness, and his demise, therefore, to be expected, it does not yet seem possible that he is gone — that his familiar figure will never again be seen on our streets, his hearty grasp of the hand never again stir the pulse of friendship, his opinions no longer influence the acts of his fellow-townsmen. He has left us, and, his family aside, the regret for his loss is most keenly felt where the affections of his heart were most firmly centred, in the office of the Attleborough CHRONICLE.

We have lost a friend, upright, generous and sympathetic; a cherished adviser — a man of pure motives, wide experience and correct ideas. He has dropped from our ranks; it is for those who may remain to advance and realize his noble purposes. This cannot be lightly done. His idea of what a newspaper should be was a high one, and demands for its realization the choicest effort of mind, the broadest sympathies of heart and an unfaltering resolution to succeed. He who would attain to it, must subordinate himself to the interests of his paper and be even more jealous of its reputation than his own. He must, as did our late co-worker, keep the welfare of his paper close to his heart night and day. He shall not plead weariness as an excuse for errors or delinquencies; the public shall have its news at any cost. He who is unwilling to give such a devotion to his journal and cannot add thereto the offices of a keen, well-disciplined mind and a style of composition remarkable for directness and force, will not presume to fill the place of Eliot Hunt in the newspaper fraternity. Mr. Hunt's interest in the CHRONICLE ceased only with his life. Its issue of last week contained an item of news forwarded from his bedside by telephone late Friday evening. But on Saturday he had entered the valley, and for the first time did not ask to have the paper read to him. He stood on the confines of another world, and the affairs of this life no longer concerned him.

The death of this, her representative journalist, is a great loss to Attleborough. For years he had studied her institutions and her needs. He knew the tendencies of her people

and could comment intelligently upon local questions. He was acquainted with all. He had assisted at their weddings and paid the last sad tribute of respect to their dead. There are few men in town with whom he had not at some time been brought into intimate relations. The files of the CHRONICLE for the past ten years testify how intimately Eliot Hunt has been associated with all the local events and questions of that period — how much bread he had cast upon the waters to be found after many days, too often without any recognition from the finder. Yet he was esteemed in life and honored in death, a circumstance that weighs more in the case of a journalist than with any one else, because his vocation leads him sooner or later to reveal to the public *all* of his character. Every selection he makes, every line he writes discloses something of himself. Hence the high place Mr. Hunt held in the community was richly and securely won. He had stood the critical test of a public half-knowledge of him, and as he became the more thoroughly known was the more thoroughly beloved. He who would succeed to his place must first be tried as by fire to prove whether or not he shall likewise be worthy of public confidence.

It should be observed that for six seasons Mr. Hunt experienced and shared all the vicissitudes in fortune, and all the hardships of the farmer's life, and so was ever after in sympathy with farmers as a class, and interested in their calling. He was connected with the Attleboro Farmers and Mechanics Association from its beginning in 1868; his name stands fifth among the signers to its constitution, and he served as secretary during the first four years of its existence. We can well believe that his affection for this institution, fostered for five years in the ranks of practical agriculture, did not lessen when his position on the CHRONICLE gave him opportunity for a wider influence. It is safe to say that no man during the fifteen years the association has been organized has had its interests more closely at heart or done more by voice, pen and hand to promote them than Eliot Hunt. Year after year, the columns of his paper were devoted to making each annual fair a success — suggesting new attractions, urging better appliances, pointing out its claims to patronage, and when it was over, deducing from its merits and defects lessons for its future conduct. He worked as zealously as he wrote. In the meetings of the association, on committees and at each exhibition he was never too busy or too feeble to give to the uttermost both of his time and his strength. And he was not without his reward, for no member will deny that the present excellent standing of the Farmers and Mechanics Association is a monument to his memory.

He became connected with his paper "soon after it entered on its second year, and its issue of April 12th, 1873, bears at the head of its local column: 'Eliot Hunt, local editor.' The files show that the amount of news in his department doubled almost immediately." The paper passed through several hands, and finally March 1, 1879, "the firm became Eliot Hunt & Co., and so continued without variation, either in style or constitution, until the death of the leading partner." Mr. Hunt made several important changes, and improved the facilities "for business by enlarging his paper from a folio to its present quarto form. A steady growth has characterized the paper since his connection with it. He was interested with Mr. Greene in originating and publishing the humorous *Benjamin Franklin Primer*, which has been read, laughed over and imitated throughout the land.

Mr. Hunt had a remarkable love for the town of Attleborough. He admired its people and institutions. He rejoiced in its prosperity and was ever jealous of its reputation. Anything reflecting on its fair name found quick and sharp refutation in the columns of his paper. But if there was one part of the town that he loved more than another it was the section where he and his ancestry had found a home. He loved the farm that his father and grandfather had tilled, and where he, too, had woven, in the mystic web of daily toil, ties of affection for every stone and tree and field. He loved the little church at Oldtown, the church where his grandfather was deacon for more than forty years and his father nurtured for the sacred offices of the Christian ministry. The yearly fund pledged by his grandfather for the support of the gospel in that place was, at his father's death, assumed by him and paid regularly to the last.

"It follows without saying that such a man had a deep affection for family and kin," an affection tender and measureless for wife and children. His "immediate circle of relatives had been so afflicted that he was the only young, able man remaining. They found him a ready adviser, and prompt to assist where age or sex imposed its hindrances. How often he lifted perplexity and care from the brow of age and laid them willingly upon his own strong but overburdened heart,

we may never know, — He best can tell who shall hereafter say: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

But the circle of Mr. Hunt's ministration and affection was not limited by the ties of kinship. He was a model friend. When once there was established between him and his fellow-man the sacred bonds of friendship, they were never loosened by any neglect or remissness on his part. He was as true as steel himself and not apt to suspect others of duplicity. If he erred at all, it was in a too great devotion to the men whom he called by the fond name of friend. His devotion awakened a kindred feeling in their hearts, as was evidenced by the solicitude for him during his long illness. Scores of men inquired for his welfare as anxiously and persistently after he had been confined to his house for months by a lingering disease, as if he had been suddenly stricken by some accident. This proves how large a place he filled in some hearts and how deeply he must be mourned today. He was connected with the Attleboro Council No. 366, Royal Arcanum, and as a member of Orient Lodge, No. 165, I. O. O. F., lived true to the triple virtues of "Friendship, Love and Truth."

As a man among men, a citizen, it is not necessary in this town, and especially in these columns where he has week by week and year by year laid bare his motives and his very heart, to bestow extended eulogy. We all knew him. We remember him as he first came to town, full of the vigor and high spirit of early manhood; we saw him enter upon a successful career as a journalist, and watched his plans for advancement bear fruit under his hand; we noted the insidious approach of consumption, the disease that had swept away his mother and a brother; we heard his heroic avowal that if he died it would not be because he was *frightened* to death; and we have followed his brave, hopeful struggle for life — a heart that never quailed, a hope that could not be unseated. We have learned how, in the quiet of a Sabbath morning, he "rested from his labors," and looking over the record of his life we have said: "This was 'an honest man, the noblest work of God.'"

Mr. Hunt died September 9, 1883, "aged 36 years, 3 months and 18 days." Friends bore him for the last time into the Second Congregational Church, where the funeral services were held, and from thence he was carried to the cemetery at South Attleborough, where, near his loved home, with beautiful flowers laid upon his casket by the hands of his two little children, he was gently placed in his last earthly resting-place. Though the lettering above his grave indicates that he had lived out only half the time allotted to man, yet in the labors he had accomplished he had lived a long and estimable life. Though his days were few, his good deeds were many. Men like Eliot Hunt call to mind Leigh Hunt's beautiful poem, "Abou Ben Adhem and the Angel." They each one by their lives speak to the recording angel, saying,—

"I pray thee, then,
Write me as one who loves his fellow men."
And if that vision comes again
"With great awakening light,
Showing the names whom love of God has blessed,"
Lo! those of such *true* men as he
Shall lead "all the rest."

CHAPTER XVII.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, CONCLUDED.

HON. ELISHA MAY, a short sketch of whom may be found on a preceding page, was the first of his name in town. He came from Barrington and settled in the west part of the town. He had eleven children, of whom the youngest was named Tully and was born May 24, 1787. He was a farmer like his father, but unlike him was a quiet, retiring man, showing no disposition for publicity or any kind of official preferment. This was simply lack of desire, not because he was wanting in capacity. It is said "he had strong political preferences, being an old-fashioned Whig." His wife was Hannah Gay, who was born October 6, 1791, and died March 28, 1875, at the advanced age of eighty-four. Mr. May died June 19, 1872, having attained the age of eighty-five. They had four children: Cynthia, Mrs. Carlos Barrows, widow; Elisha G. and Henry F., all residing in West and South Attleborough; and Catherine, deceased.

ELISHA GAY MAY was born October 6, 1812. He was brought up on a farm with the expectation that he would become a farmer, and he received only the amount of schooling given at that time to the average country boy — an amount that was comparatively little more than the ordinary knowledge of "reading, writing, and ciphering." When he became of age and had the right to decide for himself he made up his mind to learn a trade, and fixed upon that of button-making. He followed the calling of a journeyman in that line for three years, and then returned to his father's farm and took up again the old occupation, which he followed for a number of years. In 1854 he entered the firm of William H. Robinson & Co., which was engaged in the manufacture of plated and gilt jewelry. Four years later this firm was dissolved, and once more Mr. May became a farmer, this time permanently; and he has been a good and successful one, though his farm is not large. His comfortable, typical New England home is near the Oldtown Church, and its pleasant "yard" has been the scene of many social gatherings and entertainments arranged with some charitable end in view.

In October, 1839, he married Ann Janette, the daughter of James and Sarah Perry Draper, of this town. She was of a family whose tracings can be followed back for many generations, even in New England. As a citizen Mr. May has always been worthy of the confidence and esteem of his townsmen, and he possesses both in a high degree. The same uprightness of principle and integrity of character for which the grandfather was distin-

guished are maintained in the life and character of the grandson, though he inherits too a goodly share of his father's retiring nature, in that he seeks no publicity; but if placed in any office, he gives himself with fidelity to the performance of its duties. He has held several of the various town offices, and several times, such as selectman, assessor, overseer of the poor, etc. He has been vice-president and treasurer of the Attleborough Agricultural Association, under one or both of its names, and was one of the first members of the Board of Health; he still holds several of these offices, and has been a justice of the peace for fully forty years — in all instances meeting the approval of those who placed him in the various positions he has occupied. In his church and society he is one whom both pastor and people depend upon in cases where a large heart, good judgment, and a liberal hand are needed, sure that in all these regards he will not fail them. In politics he is a Republican.

"Kind hearted and generous, both Mr. and Mrs. May have been liberal supporters of church organizations and benevolence, and the suffering and distressed have often been relieved by their unostentatious ministrations." They have no children.[1]

HENRY D. MERRITT was born in Hartland, Vt., January 16, 1826. He had no advantages in the way of an education beyond the common schools of his native town, but through his own energy and resolution "he acquired by reading and reflection a good practical education." When about eighteen "he left home to seek his fortune." We find him first in Boston, learning the tailor's trade, and then in North Attleborough, as clerk to H. M. Richards, in which capacity "he was industrious and faithful, proving to be one of the most successful salesmen in Mr. Richards' employ." In 1858 he became himself a jewelry manufacturer, and his first partner was Joseph B. Draper, the firm name being Merritt & Draper. After a few years the business was removed from North Attleborough to Mansfield, and after a time Mr. Merritt retired. His successor was John Shepardson, and in time Mr. Merritt entered into partnership with him, under the name of H. D. Merritt &

[1] Mrs. May died August 11, 1890, and Mr. May January 28, 1892. Not long subsequent to this event their homestead was sold to the present owner, Mr. M. C. Lathrop, whose wife, it is interesting to note, is a lineal descendant of the original owner of the house — Captain John Stearns, who was very prominent in public affairs in Revolutionary times. Captain Stearns was born in 1711 and died August 15, 1792, in his eighty-first year. The exact date of the building of the house cannot be determined, but it was probably about 1741, over one hundred and fifty years ago, and members of the fifth and sixth generations from the first owner now reside in it. It is pleasant to record such a fact as this, and to find now and again a house where family links still bind the present to a far-away and honorable past. About 1766 Captain Stearns built a house in the vicinity of his own for a daughter upon her marriage with a Mr. Stratton. This house with the land belonging is now occupied by Mrs. Abby S. Kent, his great-granddaughter. The two places have recently been divided into building lots, and received the pretty and appropriate name of Kentston Park. It is the intention of the family in the near future to develop the tract and make of it a place of residence — a plan easy of accomplishment, as there are many attractions to those wishing for pure air and quiet homes in the midst of real country scenery and surroundings.

Co. This was in 1870, and in 1872 this firm came to North Attleborough, where they did a successful business and one which constantly increased. During the latter years of his life Mr. Merritt spent a considerable portion of his time in New York in connection with his business, but he purchased a home in North Attleborough, and his family resided there. His wife was Marietta Aldrich, by whom he had two children — Clara R.[1] and Henry D. "As a business man, Mr. Merritt was very successful. He carried into every department a methodical mind, untiring industry, and sterling honesty. In private life he was a man of quiet, unassuming manners, unexceptionable habits, and upright in his intercourse with others."

ALFRED PIERCE is a descendant of the Pierce family of Rehoboth, who were among the early settlers of that town. Barnard Pierce was a well-respected citizen there. Jeremiah, his son, was born there August 29, 1786. He was a successful carpenter and farmer, "honorable and upright, and a useful, much loved citizen." He married Candace Wheeler, November 9, 1806, by whom he had eleven children, ten of whom are still living. Mr. Pierce died in 1837 and Mrs. Pierce in 1882, she "having attained the remarkable age of ninety-three years and eighteen days." [One or two of the children have since died.]

Alfred, the son of Jeremiah and the subject of this sketch, was born in Rehoboth, December 31, 1821. Its schools afforded his only education and at fifteen he was apprenticed "to learn the carpenter's trade." He commenced life for himself at the age of nineteen, as a carpenter, in Pawtucket. After staying there about four years he went back to his native town and engaged in farming in connection with the work of his trade. He was occupied in that way for two years, when he came to Attleborough and attended exclusively to the business of carpentering until 1851, when the "gold fever" attacked him and he went to California. He worked in the mines there for a year and a half, and then went to Melbourne, Australia. Here he worked in the mines about ten months, and met with the same comparative success he had had in California. At the end of that time he started for home, stayed a few weeks in Aspinwall on the way and did some carpenter work, and then came back to this town. Since then he has remained here, with the exception only of eighteen months passed in Illinois.

In 1869 Mr. Pierce associated with himself Arthur B. Carpenter, of this town, forming a firm to conduct the business of lumber merchants and coal dealers. Pierce & Carpenter have been and still are successful, and for many years have been doing quite an extensive business in their lines. Mr. Pierce is himself quite a large real estate owner. He built one of the business blocks in East Attleborough, one in which some of the most attractive

[1] She married Mr. Horace P. Kent, of Portsmouth, N. H. He is now a resident of North Attleborough.

stores in the village are located and which may be decidedly called a "village improvement." On December 6, 1865, he was married to Martha R. Williams, the daughter of Thomas and Polly Richardson Williams, of this town. Their only child is Marion W. Pierce. [Now Mrs. Miles Carter.]

BURRILL PORTER, JR., is a native of Charlestown, N. H., where he was born February 22, 1832. "His paternal grandfather was Asahel Carpenter Porter, a farmer from Coventry, Conn., and his maternal grandfather was John Garfield, a lineal descendant of the Garfields who early settled in Spencer, Mass. He is a son of Burrill and Susan Garfield Porter, and is the oldest of a family of nine children, all of whom reached the age of manhood, and most of whom are now living industrious and useful lives." Mr. Porter was brought up on his father's farm, attending the public schools of Langdon, N. H., and preparing for college at the academies in Westminster and Saxton's River, Vt. In March, 1853, he entered Dartmouth College more than a year in advance of his class, and graduated in 1856.

He chose a most arduous but equally honorable profession, that of a teacher, and followed it with success for twenty-three years. "During this time he was principal of academies at Canaan, Alstead, and Swansea, N. H., teacher of public schools in Cleveland and Fostoria, Ohio, and principal of high schools in Braintree and this town, (in Massachusetts). He was the first principal of the North High School, and held that position twelve years and a half, during which time there were graduated from the school one hundred and thirty students." He resigned this position in 1879. During that year "he was elected selectman and assessor, and appointed collector of taxes." In 1880 he was selected as overseer of the poor. "He was elected representative for the First Bristol District — which includes the towns of Attleborough, Norton, and Mansfield — in the Legislature of Massachusetts, for the year 1881, when the public statutes were adopted." He was a member of the first committee which served when the North Attleborough Library Association was formed and became a member of the prudential committee of the Union Improvement District, which now supports the library "as a free and public" institution. Mr. Porter is connected with the First Universalist Society in town, has been on its parish committee and treasurer of its funds. He was one of the building committee of the parish during the erection of the new church and parsonage four or five years ago. He received the appointment of postmaster for the village of North Attleborough several years since and continues to occupy the position.[1] He has identified himself thoroughly with the town and her interests, taken up the duties of a good citizen with intelligence and performed them with fidelity. He prepared a very interesting chapter on the rise and progress of the town

[1] His successor, who has been appointed since the town was divided, is J. D. Richards (1888).

schools, etc., in Attleborough, which was published in the sketch of our history in the History of Bristol County, and various quotations from it are made in the similar chapter of this work.

PRICE.

EDWARD PRICE was born in Birmingham, England, November 19, 1776. He came to this country in 1794, and either immediately after his arrival or in a very short time, to this town, for it was only two years after, in 1796, that he married Sarah, the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Woodcock Daggett, of Attleborough. He had been a button manufacturer in his native country and skilled in the trade. He brought machinery with him from England, and was the first to make buttons in these parts, if not in all America. He lived in the East village for a while, doing business near there, and then returned to North Attleborough. In 1811 he was induced to engage in cotton manufacturing, but it proved an unsuccessful venture. Subsequently he became a large real estate owner.

GEORGE PRICE, the second son of the above, was born in North Attleborough, November 14, 1806, probably in a house that then stood on the site of Wamsutta Block. "The early death of his father made the boyhood of George Price a laborious one. From the night when the father was suddenly stricken down, and he ran out, jacket in hand, after a physician, his life was one of care, activity and responsibility. One year in the common school constituted his educational advantages. He carried on the farm in his early years, and found time as well to work at brass-founding." When the jewelry business became prominent and promising in town he decided to engage in that, and began by serving an apprenticeship with the firm of Draper, Tifft & Co. In time he became a manufacturer and the first known partner was Calvin Richards. He built the shop which still stands opposite his late residence — a pretty spot not far from the centre of the Falls village on a road leading over Mount Hope hill. This was the third jewelry shop ever built in town, and though now a small one was then considered very large. His partner in the new shop was S. S. Daggett and their specialty fire-gilt jewelry. Mr. Price continued there for six years, but retired in 1856 and resumed the care of his farm, to which meanwhile he had made large additions.

He was now fifty years old, and up to this time had held no public offices, but from this time forward until his death he was constantly in one or more positions of responsibility. "His career shows that twenty-five years after fifty is just as long as twenty-five years before, and that some men can employ both to equal advantage." In 1855 the question as to the advisability of dividing the town arose and Mr. Price was chairman of a committee to consider and report upon the matter. The report was favorable — the reason given that the voters numbered over a thousand and were therefore not easy

to manage properly; but Mr. Price considered division even in view of that fact unwise, and he declined to sign the report. From 1856 to 1860 he was selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor, and the three following years town treasurer. He was reëlected to the latter office in 1869 and kept it during the rest of his life. In the winter of 1877–78 he was a representative at the General Court. He was most earnest and active in the formation of the Farmers and Mechanics Association and held the office of its president from the commencement in 1869 until 1877. He was among the first to take the necessary steps toward securing permanent accommodations for the uses of the association, and to him it was largely indebted for its present fine grounds and commodious buildings. He labored earnestly to relieve the association of its debt, devoting much time and money to that purpose. He entered the Washington Rifle Corps as a private and rose through every grade of rank to that of its captain, and was the last who held that office.

One says: "If we were to select any traits of character for which Mr. Price was especially remarkable, it would be his activity, honesty, and fidelity to what he believed to be right. His mental activity was wonderful, and ceased only with his life. His honesty made him not less exacting with himself than with others. His accounts were always correct, his dealings always square. Crookedness in others he considered absolutely without excuse, and dishonesty of any kind he despised beyond measure. He was not hasty in his judgments, but a conclusion once reached by what seemed to him sufficient data was rarely abandoned. He was faithful to his convictions. This is illustrated by his adherence to the doctrines of the old Whig party; he voted the Republican ticket as the least objectionable alternative; but at heart he was a loyal Whig to the last." He "upheld the fundamental principles of Christianity," but did not accept the peculiar dogmas of any special denomination.

In October, 1829, he was married to Martha Galusha Grant, of Swansea, Mass., and this union lasted above fifty years. They had nine children: Martha S., Mrs. J. D. Pierce, deceased; George G.; Sarah A., Mrs. S. N. Newcomb; William M.; Corisande, Mrs. George A. Brock, deceased; Mary G., deceased; Edward R.; Caroline T., Mrs. Roswell Blackinton, of this town; and Alice M. Mr. Price died July 19, 1882, having lived a long and useful life, and leaving a stainless record to be cherished, not only by his sons and daughters, but by his community, and the whole town whose best interests he had at heart, and for which he labored during many years.

Edward R. Price was born October 9, 1846. After attending the public schools here he entered the Green Mountain Institute at South Woodstock, Vt., where he completed his school education. At the age of nineteen, in 1865, he entered the Attleborough Bank as clerk, remaining in that position for five years. In 1870, when but twenty-four years of age, he was elected cashier of the bank, a significant fact, one which in a word gives his char-

acter, capacity, and reputation. In April, 1872, he became the treasurer of the Attleborough Savings Bank, and these two positions he still retains, the former as that of the North Attleborough National Bank under a new charter granted in 1885. He holds these positions now, as always, with the perfect confidence of those associated with him officially, and of the entire community and town. Mr. Price seems to have inherited in large measure the strict integrity and unassailable honesty of his father, and the same perfect correctness in business dealings and operations. No stronger proof of this could be given than the statement of his election at so early an age to a position of large financial trust, and his retention of the same through so many consecutive years, especially when, as is the case, those years have been full of alluring temptations in the money-getting line, when thousands of fortunes have been made in a day, though in ways the fathers never dreamed of. Really the men of to-day who resist the temptation to make money a little faster than the old legitimate methods enable them to do, particularly when they have the constant handling of large sums, even though these belong to other people, deserve great credit, and Attleborough can point to the record of her two cashiers with no inconsiderable degree of confident satisfaction.

Mr. Price holds various local offices; is clerk of the First Universalist Parish, treasurer of the North Attleborough Water Company, etc., and he is also vice-president of the Manhattan Cattle Company of Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. He is a member of Aurora Lodge, and prominent in Bristol Lodge F. and A. M., and is one of its Past Masters. He is thoroughly interested in this ancient organization and in all that pertains to its history. Through his instrumentality the valuable old charter of the lodge has been suitably and carefully framed and thus perserved from destruction. He is, too, thoroughly interested in his town, in her reputation and status, both past and present. He wished these to continue single, not double, and he did all he could to prevent division. He is to be ranked among Attleborough's best citizens. His courteous manners make him agreeable as an associate and friend; his business experience makes his judgment worthy of reliance; and his character commands and obtains the respect of everybody.

December 29, 1869, he married Ella M. Jillson, of South Attleborough. Their only child is a daughter, Mary Daggett Price.

READ.

The Read family traces its genealogy back many hundreds of years to 1139, when one "Brianus de Reed" was "a noted man of Lincolnshire, England." From his two sons, "Robert of Reed, and Thomas of Reeddale," the family has descended. The records mention one "William Rede an eminent mathematician, who in 1369 was made Bishop of Chichester." One John Read, born in 1598, with a brother, William, born in 1596, came

to this country in Governor Winthrop's fleet in 1620. John lived in Dorchester, Braintree, and Weymouth, and in 1643 came to Rehoboth. He was a freeman, probably the one admitted in 1640, and had held responsible positions in Massachusetts Colony. He was one of the original proprietors of Rehoboth and a man of substance, for he was "taxed on three hundred pounds, a very large estate for those days." He held various offices of trust, was an active and influential man in both civil and religious affairs, and from the first "a leading citizen." He attained great length of days and died at the age of eighty-seven. It is said of his numerous descendants that "as a body, they are thrifty, law-abiding, and industrious, doing honor to their noble pioneer ancestor." John had a son Daniel, and a grandson of the same name who came to this town, about 1716, with five children. By his second wife, whose name was Ide, he had eight children, of whom the oldest was also named Daniel. He had a son Levi, of the fourth generation from John, who was born in 1762. He was an honest, industrious farmer and led a quiet, unpretending, but useful life. He was a deacon in the First Congregational Church at Oldtown for sixty years; was earnest and faithful in church affairs and generous towards all objects of benevolence. His wife was Nancy Hunt, of this town, and they had eight children. Mr. Read died in 1853, "having attained the remarkable age of ninety-one years, and left the record of an untarnished life of Christian activity and good works."

HENRY CLIFFORD READ is a descendant of this family, the son of Levi, and he was born May 8, 1810, on the spot where he now lives. He received only a common-school education, "taught two terms," and was a farmer at home until he was about twenty-one. He learned the trade of a machinist and worked at it about three years in Worcester and Providence. When quite young he married Eunice D. Tyler, of this town, by whom he had two children, both of whom, with the mother, are dead. Many years ago Mr. Read went to Illinois and spent ten years in that State as a farmer. Then he returned to his old home here, the place which has been in the family since his grandfather's time. January 3, 1856, he was married to Mrs. Abbie H. Sherman, daughter of Shadrac Davis, of New Bedford, Mass., by whom he has had two children, Henry C. and Rufus C.

Like many of his townsmen Mr. Read was a Whig, and is a Republican. He has been a selectman and a member of the State Legislature. He has discharged the duties of these and other positions well, thereby proving himself a worthy citizen and gaining the respect of his fellow-citizens. He shows himself ready to aid every good work. He formerly held the "faith of his fathers," but of later years has accepted the doctrine of Spiritualism. He and his father's family have been strong temperance men, using neither liquor nor tobacco in any form.

A son of Mr. Read by his first wife, Samuel T. Read, was captain on General Butler's staff at the beginning of the war of the Rebellion, at

General Butler's own request. He raised a company in Boston, entered the service, and reached the rank of colonel. After the war he married and settled in Natchez, Miss., where he died in 1880.

CLEMENT O. READ, an older brother of Henry C., "was the pioneer in the screw business." His first essay was in the manufacture of wood screws in the mill called "the City Factory," or the "Attleborough City Mill," once owned by Daniel Read & Co., and with machinery of his own invention. "His pecuniary means being limited, he associated Rhode Island capitalists with him, and removed his works to Providence, at the corner of Hewes and Charles streets, where the American Screw Company's mills are now. The difficulty of putting a new article upon the market at a price within the reach of the consumers was an obstacle that the company could not overcome, and Mr. Read suffered the loss of what money he put into the business. But this enterprise has since grown, and the screws manufactured by the company that grew out of this effort of our worthy and ingenious townsman have acquired a world-wide reputation."

Mr. Read was a thorough mechanic, and the inventor of a large number of useful pieces of mechanism. He lived a "long, exemplary, and useful life." He died at Perth Amboy, New Jersey, to which place he had some time previously removed, at the age of seventy-nine, a man who had been a good citizen and true friend, and one "whose memory will be revered and loved by all who knew him."

RICHARDS.

THOMAS RICHARDS was the first of this name known in this country, and he was born in Dorchester, England, about the year 1590. According to a history of the family, he "was a man of standing in the mother country, and one of the principal men in the new. He was a merchant, and dignified by the title of 'Mr.,' a high honor in colonial days." He was a descendant of James Richards, of Somerset County, and of Sir Richard Richards, "Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer and often President of the House of Lords," who was possessor of a manor-house which is still standing in Wales, and whose family were called "ancient possessors" as early as 1550. Thomas Richards had several children. A son, John, "Worshipful and Major," and an eminent man of his time, married a daughter of Governor Winthrop; one daughter, Mary, married Thomas Hinckley, Governor of Plymouth; another, Alice, married Major William Bradford, Deputy Governor of Plymouth; and there were other children.

Edward Richards, from whom those in this town are descended, was a nephew of Thomas, and settled in Dedham about 1635, being one of the "principal planters" of that town. He was a prominent man there, a freeman, a blameless church member, and a man of large property. He was elected selectman nine years consecutively. John, the son of Edward, was

born, married, and died in Dedham. His son John married there also, and lived on his father's homestead. One of his sons was a physician, a colonel, and a leading citizen of that town. Another son, John, married Abigail Avery, and two of their sons, Edward and Nathan, were the first of the name who came to Attleborough. All the records show that the family were for many generations the possessors of wealth and high social position. They were gentlemen by birth, education, and association, and manifested the advantages of these inheritances and possessions by the eminence they so often attained.

EDWARD RICHARDS, the first in this town of his name, was born in Dedham in 1724, and in 1756 he married Mary Fisher, of that place. The date of his removal to this town is 1760, and he at once took a prominent position in its affairs. He served "most faithfully in the many positions of trust" which he was called to fill. His name appears frequently upon the records of Revolutionary times as a member of the important committees of "Safety and Correspondence," and it stands first upon the list of the five gentlemen first chosen as such a committee in 1774; "and among the judges of the Superior and Inferior Court created by the town," his name is also to be found. During this time "he was either first, or among the first." He had four sons, some of whom he probably brought with him when very young to this town, and all of whom settled here. One of these, Calvin, was of a different mold from many of the family, for of him it has been said: "He was a quiet, peaceful citizen." He had seven sons: Hervey, who died at an early age; Manning, Peyton, Calvin, Spencer, Ira, and Ichabod: and two daughters.

MANNING RICHARDS became a farmer, but not on a large scale, and after a time he added a manufacturing business to this occupation, for he was of "a mechanical turn of mind." He turned his attention to jewelry soon after that manufacture was commenced in town, built a shop on his farm about two miles from the village of North Attleborough, and had for a while and for that time a considerable business. Subsequently he removed to the village, and "opened a variety store and public house," on the site of T. E. Hancock's store. Reverses came, however, and he lost a large portion of the property he had accumulated. His death occurred in 1826.

HON. HERVEY MANNING RICHARDS was the son of Manning and Susan Everett Richards, and was born on his father's farm July 11, 1812. He must have had only scant opportunity for a school education, as he was but fourteen years of age when his father died, and the loss of property which the father had sustained caused him to be left with the responsibility of becoming the support of his mother and two sisters. The outlook does not seem to have discouraged him, lad as he was, for he went to work at once

and manfully. He learned the jewelry trade, as an apprentice to his uncle, Ira Richards, managed withal to save a little money, and, "while yet a boy in his teens," commenced business for himself, his energy and industry taking the place of reserve force which is usually given to capital. "His business career of nearly sixty years is remarkable for the enterprise displayed, and the signal reverses met."

He had scarcely begun to prosper in his first venture when his shop was burned. Directly he formed a partnership with George Morse, as Morse & Richards. Mr. Morse was an excellent mechanic, so he took charge of the manufacturing, and Mr. Richards tried the to him new line of a salesman's position, proved a success, and the firm prospered. In 1833, when just twenty-one, he was joined by his cousin, Edmund Ira Richards, who was just eighteen. They "bought copper cents from a firm in Taunton, which also sold to the government, and stamping them with a caricature of Gen. Jackson, and the motto 'I take the responsibility,' put them on the market." These were at once in great demand, and purchasers, finding they could be passed as money, proceeded to pass them; but Government soon vetoed the enterprise. This young firm had such marked success that Ira Richards was persuaded to retire from the firm of Draper, Tifft & Co. "and go into business with 'The boys.'" This occurred in 1834, and the firm thus formed was Ira Richards & Co., one well known, and "second to none" in the jewelry business. The amount of capital was $2,000, and at the end of twenty weeks the proceeds were $20,000.

In 1836 H. M. Richards retired from this firm. He bought out W. B. Franklin, who was then at work in the first jewelry-shop ever known in the village of North Attleborough, but remained there only a short time, when he went to Philadelphia and opened a manufactory in that city. He took with him some skilful workmen from here, among them W. D. Whiting and Otis Stanley. For some years he was successful, but then, having engaged in some large speculations ("the mulberry tree speculations") which resulted unfavorably, he lost his fortune and returned to his native town. He was then only thirty-nine and was for the third time where he started — at the bottom of the ladder and without money. He was in reality worse off than at first, for he had already tasted of the fruits of success; but he had lost none of his inborn energy and courage, and he began again with the timely assistance of his uncle Ira, and with unabated determination to compel fortune to his will once more. "He went to Plainville, bargained for the whole village, and opened a factory there," and at the same time took up his residence in that place.

"Unfortunately, before he had paid the money, a larger offer had been accepted," and this compelled him to change all his plans and "to go elsewhere." He then located in North Attleborough, in a shop that stood nearly opposite his late residence. From this time he grew wealthy with great

rapidity, and foreseeing far more clearly than any one else at that time the possibilities of both Attleborough Falls and his own village, he made large investments in real estate in both places. "He once owned all the east side of Washington-street from Elm-street to and including the site of Codding's block; and on the west side from Guild's block to Richards-avenue [exclusive of the Universalist church and the land where F. E. Hancock's store now is, with ten or twelve acres directly in the rear of this frontage] — namely: including the estate of the late Simeon Bowen, Dr. F. L. Burden, W. W. Albee, A. E. Codding, E. D. Sturtevant, Dr. Foster, — and Kendall's grove. The mill property at Farmers' village was bid off at auction by him in 1854, and soon after he exchanged property with Handel and Homer Daggett, who owned the cotton mill at Attleboro' Falls. He built the present stone mill of the Gold Medal Braid Co. in 1855 for a jewelry factory. He later purchased the 'Peck farm' in the rear of the Falls village, including 'Peck's mountain,' and all the property lying between the Braid mill and the river, where it crosses Chestnut-street near the Union Power Co.'s shop. He built the residence of Mrs. Simeon Bowen, and lived there a number of years. He also owned and resided in what is known as the 'Round house,' now the property of the St. Mary Society, and had other estates of less value and note. The road from Elm-street to the Falls railroad-bridge was built by him."

He had but just acquired this great property when the crisis of 1857 came on and brought more or less of disaster to almost all of the jewelry firms in town, and indeed in the country. Mr. Richards became embarrassed, and his efforts to realize advantageously on his real estate were unavailing and it finally was disposed of to the Providence Land Company and by them divided and sold. Henry L. Kendall bought a large portion of the property in North Attleborough, and H. N. Daggett the mill, etc., at the Falls. It went at a ruinous sacrifice so far as Mr. Richards was concerned, and his purchasers naturally realized the profits which should have been his. In 1863, then fifty-one years of age, he bravely set out once again and for the fourth time to make a fortune. This time he went to Boston, and with his son E. H. Richards established himself in the jewelry business there. The firm name was H. M. Richards & Co., and the location at No. 7 Green Street. Here too he met with success, but not to such a degree as previously. In 1876 he retired from active partnership, and in 1880 sold his share in the concern to his son, who continues, but under another name. He then returned to his home on Washington Street, North Attleborough, not far from the railroad station, where he resided till his death.

Mr. Richards was a very public-spirited man, active in all matters relating to the advancement or benefit of the town, and a liberal member of the First Universalist Society. He was a member of Bristol Lodge and prominent also as an Odd Fellow — a member of Howard Encampment and Aurora

Lodge, No. 107. In 1856–57 he was Representative, and in 1862–63 Senator in the State Legislature. He was in 1860 one of the signers of the petition for the charter of the Attleborough Savings Bank, and "the prime mover in the establishment of the North Attleborough Gas Co. and its works."

His first wife was Juline, the daughter of David Capron, and they were married June 3, 1833. Having no children of their own they adopted two: Eugene H. and Marion Fell Richards, the latter Mrs. C. A. Gilchrist, of Boston. In November, 1857, Mr. Richards married again — Mrs. Anjanette P. Balcom, a daughter of Remember Carpenter, of Pawtucket, R. I. They had no children. In the spring of 1882 Mr. Richards was attacked severely with paralysis. Still he was not disheartened or dismayed — his indomitable will and dauntless courage prevailed even here — and for a long time he refused to be conquered by a disease whose power is calculated to make the strongest spirit cower. He partially recovered his strength, and his determination enabled him to go about, though one side of his body was almost helpless. He walked, and alone, because he *would* do so, but repeated shocks subsequently followed and his frame was finally compelled to yield. He became physically quite helpless, but there was never any diminution of the mental powers. His death occurred July 19, 1886.

The funeral took place at his late residence and was largely attended, and he was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery with the impressive rites of Odd Fellowship. One speaks of him thus: "Mr. Richards exemplified in his life the virtues of industry, perseverance, and fortitude of purpose. Viewed as a business man, he had a genius for making money rather than tenacity in keeping it. He believed that money was to be used, and used in developing the resources, and promoting the welfare of the community in which it was made. He was one of those men, who, placed on a barren rock, would cast about him and make a fortune in a few years, and then spend half of it in trying to make the rock something more fruitful and attractive. He was greatly esteemed among his fellow citizens, especially those who knew him when he was most active in North Attleborough. Such an enterprising, able, and public-spirited man the public heart remembers tenderly and honors in his last, long sleep."

Eugene H. Richards, adopted son of H. M. Richards, was born November 17, 1843. Immediately after his graduation from Tufts College, in July, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Fortieth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers. On August 15 following he received a commission as second lieutenant, and on July 2, 1863, that of first lieutenant by promotion. He was with his regiment in all the battles in which it was engaged, was a good soldier, and served his country faithfully and creditably, receiving in 1864 an honorable discharge. He was at once on his return home employed by his father in the business he was then carrying on in Boston and in 1870 became a partner in it. In 1880 he bought his father's share and changed

the firm name to E. H. Richards & Co., under which title he still continues with success. He is a prominent member of the Masonic Order and holds important offices in York and Scottish rites, which are eligible to Masons only of very high degree. He was married October 18, 1869, to Frances A. Jordan, of Boston. They have no children (1887).

Ira Richards, a younger brother of Manning Richards, was also a pioneer in the jewelry business and became famous in it. Previous to entering upon it, however, he and two of his younger brothers — Calvin and Spencer — were associated in several kinds of business. They formed the Richards Manufacturing Company, which carried on quite a large business in the making of brass doorknobs and "ketches," or fasteners. He became a member of the firm of Draper, Tifft & Co., but retired after a few years, when he became the founder of the second famous jewelry firm in the town, historically, the one just named being the first. He gained an enviable reputation as a business man. It was universally said of him: "His word is as good as his bond," and this association with his name is remembered and referred to even at the present time. It is also said: "He was very reserved and stern, but so notably a just and honored man, that matters of dispute among his neighbors, if unable to be settled peacefully, were invariably left to his decision." He was one of the directors of the old State Bank of Attleborough, and among the most prominent men in the First Universalist Church, "being the prime mover in changing its location from Oldtown to North Attleborough." He married Fanny Draper, of this town, granddaughter of Dr. Bezaleel Mann, and she lived to a very great age. Mr. Richards died in 1845.

Edmund Ira Richards, elder son of Ira and Fanny Richards, was born in North Attleborough, November 27, 1815, in a large two-story house now on Grant Street, then in front of Mr. Abiel Codding's present residence on Elm Street. His boyhood was, however, spent in the house built by his father soon after his birth and well known to most people now as the residence of the Doctors Foster, father and son. Mr. Richards commenced his business career at a very early age, for, as has been seen, when but eighteen he made his first venture with his cousin, H. M. Richards, in the stamping and selling of copper cents, which operation was only allowed a short, though it had proved a very successful, existence, when it was summarily stopped by a governmental order. In 1834, being joined by his father, Mr. Richards became one of the founders of the famous firm known by the father's name for many years. This partnership proved an equal success with the first for two years, or until 1836, when Mr. Richards became of age. Some changes were then made; further ones occurred in 1841, and others in 1845, the date of Mr. Ira Richards' death. At that time the partnership between Messrs. E. I. and J. D. Richards and Abiel Codding,

Jr., was formed; and these three gentlemen, with equal interest, carried on business together, under the original name, for thirty years and made for themselves "a national reputation."

Some difficulties arose in 1875, which made it expedient to dissolve this firm; but a new one was at once formed and called, after the chief partner, E. I. Richards & Co. His death occurred in 1882, but the firm is still in existence and carries on its business under the same name.

In October, 1850, Mr. Richards was elected a director of the Attleborough State Bank. "He soon conceived the idea of removing the bank from Attleborough to North Attleborough. Mr. Richards and his associates, from August 1855 to December 1856, succeeded in controlling a majority of the stock, and he presented the matter of removal to the Senate so convincingly, that, with Oakes Ames for the opposition, the change was allowed." Judge Wheaton, the founder of Wheaton Seminary at Norton, was president of the bank. About that time he retired from the office and at a stockholders' meeting held February 11, 1856, Mr. Richards was chosen his successor and he retained the office until January 27, 1875. On July 6, 1857, the stockholders voted to remove the bank to North Attleborough, and its stock increased threefold in value during the twenty years of Mr. Richards' presidency. Mr. Richards initiated the movement to establish the Attleborough Savings Bank in 1860 and was one of the four signers of the petition for a charter.

"In war time he was one of the most hopeful in the darkest hours, but he was too much absorbed in business to feel under ordinary circumstances much interest in politics. In the winter of 1865–66, however, he yielded to the wishes of his friends, and represented his district at the General Court." Though well fitted for a public career, he seemed to possess no desires or aspirations in that direction. He found his home, which was a beautiful one, the most attractive and satisfactory place, and the chief part of his time which was not occupied with the active pursuits of his business was spent with his family. He was "a business man of the greatest energy, shrewdness and foresight." His remarkably enterprising spirit manifested itself at a very early age "and his career shows what brains and push can do for any man's advancement."

"Many of the jewelry and other firms in North Attleboro' were aided by the counsel, and backed by the money of Mr. Richards when they started. He was remarkably tenacious of his purpose; and this tenacity showed itself not only in pushing the business of his own firm, but in supporting the venture of any man he assisted. If he decided that a man ought to succeed in an enterprise, and advanced him the money, Mr. Richards would not admit that failure was a possibility. It was by seconding new business ventures, as well as in forwarding their own, that Edmund Ira Richards and the firm with which he was connected have done much, in their long career, toward building

up the business prosperity of North Attleborough. One of the best acts of Mr. Richards in connection with public enterprise, was the subscription of $5,000 toward building the new Universalist church."

May 10, 1841, he married Lucy Maria Morse. She belongs to the Tingley family, several brothers of which became distinguished merchants, some of them being associated with the famous house of Brown, Ives & Co., of Providence. They had four children, of whom the following three are living: Anna Leslie, wife of John Augustus Tweedy, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Harriet Tingley, and Edmund Ira Richards. The latter is a member of the old firm, but resides chiefly in Brooklyn, having charge especially of the business as connected with the New York office.

Mr. Richards died at his home, May 15, 1882. In a sketch of his life in the *Chronicle*, already quoted, are these words: "When a man has lived for nearly threescore years and ten, a prominent figure in social and business circles, it seems idle to enlarge upon his qualities of mind and heart, for he has written his eulogy line by line in a book read by all men, and nothing that can now be said will add or detract. And yet this sketch would fail of its purpose without some tribute to the character and abilities of the deceased. He was not, as one has expressed it, a 'quiet' man. He was a man of the most stupendous energy, of indomitable will, of the firmest self-reliance; these qualities, united with a comprehensive grasp of mind, great foresight and decision, made him a business man of the very highest ability."

Josiah D. Richards, younger brother of the above, was born July 7, 1827. Upon his father's decease, as has been stated, when only eighteen years of age, he took the place made vacant in the firm of Ira Richards & Co. He continued a member for over thirty years, retiring in 1876, and from that time has discontinued all active interest in business. He, however, takes active interest in all that has connection with the general prosperity and improvement of the town. Personally he has a great fondness for floriculture, especially for the cultivation of roses. Of these he has something like a thousand varieties, which he grows with great success on his large grounds and in his spacious greenhouses. They are grown for pleasure, not profit, and their beauties are shared by his friends not only in a general but in a personal way.

June 19, 1848, Mr. Richards was married to Harriet E. Draper, daughter of John Draper, a jeweler of this town.[1] They had two children, one of

[1] Mr. Draper was born and died at the old Draper homestead on Washington Street, North Attleborough, but he resided for some time in New York, and there his two daughtors, Harriet E., Mrs. Richards, and Sarah A., Mrs. C. E. W. Sherman, were born. Mrs. Draper was Harriet Tisdale, and she was born in Assonet village, Freetown, a place famous in our Revolutionary annals. Mrs. Draper subsequently married Mr. Warren Aldrich, for many years a resident of the Falls village, and their daughter, Marietta Aldrich, is Mrs. H. D. Merritt, of North Attleborough. Mrs. Richards died January 11, 1891, after a somewhat lingering illness caused by paralysis.

whom is deceased. Ira Richards, their son, was born March 5, 1852. Shortly after completing his education at Phillips Academy, Andover, he entered into partnership with Messrs. Sandland and Capron, of North Attleborough, to manufacture jewelry, and is still connected with that firm. On January 2, 1879, he married Lydia R., daughter of William H. Reynard, of New Bedford, this State. They have several children and a charming residence within the ample grounds of Mr. Richards, the father.[1]

RICHARDSON.

The family of this name were originally of Scandinavian origin, but emigrated to America from England among the early settlers of both Massachusetts and Plymouth colonies. Members of several different families of this name, so far as they are traced, came to Attleborough, and among them four brothers, Stephen, John, William, and Seth, who had previously settled in Woburn, this State, and probably came directly from that town to this. Of these brothers, Stephen had a son (Daniel?) who was born about 1741–42. He married Sarah Read, and they had three sons. The youngest of them was Noah, and he was born June 27, 1780. He owned a farm on the east road running from Attleborough to North Attleborough, adjoining in part a farm still owned and occupied by a family of the same name, though not of near relationship. He was a farmer and a nail-maker. He was quiet and unpretending, but a good and respected citizen, and liberal toward works of usefulness or benevolence as far as his very limited means would allow. He died when fifty-five, but his wife, whose name was Irene Bacon, survived him for many years, and reached the age of eighty-four. Both were buried in the Old Kirk Yard, but their remains were subsequently removed to Mount Hope Cemetery. They had seven children: Sylvester, Alfred, Silena (Mrs. Charles P. Day), Stephen, Charles B., Eliza (Mrs. Angus McDonald), and Mary C.

Stephen Richardson was born November 10, 1815, in the house now known as the "James Foster house," the farm connected with it being probably in whole or in part his father's. The first fifteen years of his life were passed at home, in the same manner no doubt as those of other boys in similar circumstances, the time filled up by work on the farm and a few months of "schooling" in the winter. When somewhat past fifteen he went to North Attleborough and entered the employ of Calvin Richards, whose factory was on the grounds adjoining the Richards homestead, now owned and occupied by Mr. Abiel Codding. Mr. Richardson spent several years in this factory learning the trade of jewelry-making, and he acquired both a thor-

[1] Mr. Josiah D. Richards died July 18, 1890. He was returning in his carriage from a hunting expedition, taken for the pleasure chiefly of his little grandson, when the accidental discharge of his gun killed him.

ough and practical knowledge of it. In 1836 he commenced manufacturing with Abiel Codding as his partner. This firm existed only a year, meanwhile occupying two different shops. After Mr. Codding's retirement, Mr. Richardson continued alone for a time, but later David Capron became associated with him, as Stephen Richardson & Co. These gentlemen continued in partnership for several years, manufacturing their goods, and then, according to the general custom of that time, traveling about the country to dispose of them, sometimes making regular sales, that is, for money, sometimes bartering them for other articles. "They were fortunate. They made good work, were lucky in their designs, which were quite popular, and made money. On one 'hit,' a new style of ring, they made about ten thousand dollars." Their success made the quarters they then occupied too limited, and in 1848 a new factory was built. The same year Mr. Richardson built the residence which he occupied during the remainder of his life, and which then was as fine as any, if not the finest, in the place. At this time the number of hands employed by this firm was forty, and it was doing the largest business in town in its particular line, and very soon a further enlargement of manufacturing room was required. Mr. Capron finally retired, and Mr. Richardson continued alone, or in connection with Samuel R. Miller, up to the year 1856.

Following that of traveling here and there, the custom had arisen among manufacturing jewelers generally to have representatives in New York City, and through them to exhibit their goods in the Western Hotel there, in rooms "well remembered by those in the trade of those days." About this time — 1856 — Mr. Richardson among the very first made a new departure and opened a separate office, where a constant supply of goods was to be found, a departure soon followed by others, and now the almost universal fashion. Such an office in that or some other city, and sometimes in more than one, is the usual adjunct of the various firms. At first Mr. Richardson made rings, pins, and chains in great variety, but afterward engaged in making what are termed "novelties," his firm being "perhaps the very first to depart from the legitimate jewelry business," for the purpose of taking up this line of manufacture. In addition to the goods made by themselves this firm "handled" those of one establishment at the Falls, one at Wrentham, and two at South Attleborough. They were also great importers, employed "a resident buyer in Paris, and became one of the largest, if not *the* largest importing house of French jewelry in America," and besides the New York office, opened first on Maiden Lane and later at 177 Broadway, they opened an office in Philadelphia.

From 1856 till 1859 Mr. Richardson was alone, and occupied himself with "domestic goods" only, and relinquished the importing branch of the business to others. On the first of July of the last-named year his son Clarence became his partner under the same name of Stephen Richardson & Co. They soon employed in the factory over a hundred hands, and many others engaged

in work for them outside. The business was very successful and very remunerative for many years. In 1870 it received a check in the burning of the factory, but in the hands of so able and determined a man as Mr. Richardson this was not allowed to be more than temporary. "After the fire, with characteristic energy and promptitude, he took rooms in the Whiting Man. Co.'s building, and in ten days' time was at work in those quarters, and immediately began a new building on the site of the burned factory." This work of construction was vigorously pushed on to completion, and on February 1, 1871, scarcely six months after the old one was destroyed, the new factory was occupied with one hundred and thirty-five hands. This was rapid work, to erect a building 150 feet long, 33 feet wide, and three stories high, with machinery set and everything in readiness for manufacturing to begin, complete in less than a hundred and fifty days. There was no abatement in the prosperity of the firm, which continued steadily successful, and also "established a large export trade in Cuba, and European ports." The senior partner continued his active interest for six years, until the time of his death.

In 1837 Mr. Richardson married Ann Janette F. Richards, daughter of Manning and Susan Everett Richards, of North Attleborough. They had four children: Clarence H.; Frank; Janette Everett, who married Eugene K. Dunbar, of Machias, Maine, the founder of the *Attleborough Chronicle* and now a resident of Boston; and Stephen, who died young. Mrs. Richardson died in July, 1862. In 1868 Mr. Richardson married Mrs. Sarah M. Richards, widow of Egbert S. Richards, of this town.

Mr. Richardson was equally an excellent man and citizen, and manifested much interest in the welfare of the town, doing his full share in all enterprises for its benefit. He invested quite largely in real estate and erected various buildings which necessitated the opening of new streets — notably East and Foster — and so made marked improvements in the village in which he lived. "He was one of the promoters, and a director of the N. A. Gas Company; also of the Branch Railroad; was also stockholder, and for many years director of the Wrentham Bank; was a stockholder of the Northern Bank of Providence; and purchased the site, and, with his fellow-members of the N. A. Building Asso. erected the Wamsutta Block."

Mr. Richardson died March 1, 1877, when but little past the prime of life. The following extract is from an article written by Mr. H. N. Daggett, whose knowledge of him was that of an intimate friend, and it well describes the man. Mr. Daggett says: "He received from his parents, who were in humble circumstances, no property, and was compelled to struggle during his minority for the support of himself and parents. He was schooled in all the trials of poverty and want in his youth, and arose, unaided, superior to both. He was truly and in every sense of the word a self-made man. His early educational advantages were limited in the extreme, compared with the

advantages and facilities of the present day. Notwithstanding these deprivations, he acquired, by contact with the world and self-culture, a good business education. He possessed good natural abilities, a mind active and evenly balanced, a kind and generous disposition. At his majority he became anxious to rise in the world and improve the talents God had given him. Without money or friends to help him, by dint of energy, perseverance, and honesty of purpose, he succeeded in attaining a fortune and a good name. He used his wealth for his own and others' good. He possessed one virtue which was preëminent, charity. He was truly benevolent and generous to a fault, and was a dispenser of charity all the days of his life. Many a poor plodder of earth will sadly miss his beneficence. He was unostentatious in his distributions to the poor and needy. Of these he kept no record on earth, but are they not recorded in the book of God's remembrance? His fellow-citizens, reposing confidence in his integrity and honesty, selected him for places of honor and trust. For nearly twenty years he was a director of a banking institution, and held many other offices. As a friend, he was constant and sincere; as an adviser, he was conscientious and true; as a neighbor, kind and obliging. No business man has gone from earth leaving a purer record, a nobler work finished, a name more beloved, or a character more unblemished than he."

ABIATHAR AUGUSTUS RICHARDSON was the only son of Abiathar Richardson, of this town. The name has long been well known in town and the family numerous, for besides the four brothers previously mentioned as coming here there were several others of the same name who immigrated here in early days. The connection between these various families has not been traced, but no doubt they all originally sprang from the same stock even though — as seems to be the case — at a period much earlier than their appearance in America, and even though relationship is not at present claimed between them all. One man of the name, William Richardson, many years ago had a house on the site of Mr. Hartford Babcock's box factory and he owned considerable land in that vicinity.

The subject of this short sketch finished his education here in town, it is said, at the Attleborough Academy.[1] His health was not sufficiently robust to permit him to engage in severe physical labor such as was required by nearly all the men in town at that time, for they were chiefly farmers, and after leaving school he went to Virginia. He sailed from Providence in a brig. This change was partly to benefit his health and partly to make a business venture. This was the time when in the popular estimation the raising of silkworms was or might be made profitable in this country, and Mr.

[1] The Academy building was not erected until a period when Mr. Richardson would have been too old to be a pupil there, though an academical school may have been previously kept in the East village.

Richardson established a plantation of mulberry trees in Virginia with this object in view. The enterprise did not, however, in his case prove successful and so he returned home. This must have been one of the so-called "mulberry-tree speculations" in which Mr. H. M. Richards also took part, and disastrously.

Mr. Richardson died of consumption at the early age of thirty years. He was possessed of a considerable fortune and as he never married and had no direct heirs he adopted the cause of public education in his own community, and by will left nearly all of his entire estate — of which the farm subsequently owned and occupied for many years by the author was a part — to the common, free schools of the East parish. The value of the donation was then $11,000 and it has since more than doubled. It was a most generous and noble gift, one for which the giver's name should be held in grateful and everlasting remembrance. He was buried in the Old Kirk Yard, where a granite monument — a plain shaft — was erected to his memory, containing the following simple but expressive and appropriate inscription: —

"ABIATHAR A. RICHARDSON,
born Dec. 30, 1813, died Feb. 13, 1843.
His legacy to Common Schools is his best
epitaph and his most enduring monument."

ROBINSON.

Six brothers of this name came here from Rehoboth previous to 1730. They were descendants of George Robinson, of that town, whose name may be found on the list of the proprietors of the Rehoboth North Purchase as the owner of one share therein. Those of the name in town to-day are also his descendants.

COLONEL OBED ROBINSON was a pioneer among the manufacturers of Attleborough. He was at first a blacksmith, but the breaking out of the Revolutionary War presented him with an opportunity to make a change in his occupation and he commenced manufacturing gunlocks for weapons for the use of the Continental army. This he did under a sub-contract, and for that reason chiefly perhaps the business proved unremunerative, so upon the close of the war he abandoned it and took up that of clock-making — for kitchen use. These tall, "old-fashioned" timepieces are no longer humble "kitchen clocks," but are promoted to the best rooms and the present chief places in the house. How many of those made by Mr. Robinson are still extant it is not possible to say, but the one made in 1797 for Hon. Ebenezer Daggett when he was married and went to housekeeping is still in existence[1] and in excellent condition. It is thoroughly to be depended on for correctness in noting the passing hours, and is highly prized both as a family treasure and because it was made by a native of Attleborough.

[1] In the possession of the Editor.

The making of clocks was in turn abandoned after some years, and in 1807 Mr. Robinson began to make jewelry, having in his employ one David Brown, "a skilled workman in the art." Five years later, in 1812, he began the manufacture of buttons, and this became a very large business both in variety and extent. At different times his three sons, Otis, Richard, and Willard, all having learned the trade of him, were associated with him in this business, and for many years great prosperity was experienced. A few years previous to his death, which occurred in 1840, Mr. Robinson retired from all active business owing to his enfeebled health. He was too greatly advanced in years. He was at one time colonel of a regiment in the Massachusetts Militia.

Otis, the oldest son, removed finally to Southington, Conn., where he was engaged in active business — in manufacturing — up to the time of his death, in 1843. Richard, the second son, died in 1837, while a member of the firm of Robinson, Jones & Co., of this town.

WILLARD ROBINSON, the youngest of these three sons, was born June 15, 1799. Like many of the prominent men of the generation just passing away, he had very few opportunities of acquiring an education so far as school instruction was concerned, the public advantages then offered being so far inferior to those of the present day in town. But mere book-learning is by no means the most important part of an education. That the knowledge gained by reading, observation, and experience of the world is of far more practical value, and that the man subjected to that method of instruction may in reality receive a thorough education and be thereby fitted to attain the highest kind of success, is evidenced by the life of the subject of this sketch.

About the time, or a little later, that Mr. Robinson's father and eldest brother became associated in the manufacture of metal buttons he and his brother Richard became apprentices to the firm, and both of them speedily developed enterprise and great ingenuity. Willard especially showed great skill and aptitude for this mechanical business. He remained for some years in the employ of his father or Richard, who appears at one time to have been in business for himself, or to have conducted the affairs of the original firm alone, and to have then employed the younger brother. In 1823 the firm of Richard Robinson & Co. was formed for the purpose of manufacturing glass buttons, and Willard became one of its members. Subsequently changes were made both in partners and firm name, but for twenty years Mr. Robinson continued to be a member, and to him was largely due the remarkable success which followed the initiation of this enterprise. His busy mind was constantly employed in thinking out changes and making additions to the facilities for manufacturing. He constructed new dyes, invented new machinery, and introduced many improvements. He saw a button called the "iris-button," and by his cleverness he discovered the

method of its production and at once set to work to manufacture it, giving to his product the name of "opal-button." Later gilt buttons were added to the varieties made.

Up to this time the latter had been imported from England, but those manufactured by the Robinsons, being superior in style and finish, commanded rapid sales and good prices and the firm soon controlled the market. The fashion of bright metal buttons for gentlemen's coats was a prevailing one fifty or more years ago, only professional men wearing black coats with cloth-covered buttons; and it is easy to realize that this firm's business must have been a very extensive and equally lucrative one. For many years a large proportion of the buttons used by the army, navy, and police were made in this establishment at Robinsonville, and a great quantity of fancy buttons besides. About 1843 the universal fashion suddenly met with a change and the gilt buttons gave place to covered ones, except for military clothing; his market closed, therefore, and in that year Mr. Robinson, who had for five years been conducting the business alone, was obliged to suspend operations.

Previous to this time John Hatch, a skilful mechanic in his employ, had conceived the idea of constructing a machine for making trowsers buttons, which should receive the material and complete the article in one continuous process and should be self-acting and self-adjusting. Mr. Robinson appreciated the promise contained in this idea and his quick intelligence grasped its feasibility, and he turned his attention to working it out. He and Mr. Hatch studied and experimented together, until they succeeded in making a perfect machine. The patent for this machine was issued to Willard Robinson February 20, 1845. It continued for fourteen years, and then an extension was obtained for seven years additional. Mr. Hatch became a partner with Mr. Robinson for the manufacture of these patented buttons and a very large and profitable business ensued. His death occurred in 1849, and Mr. Robinson carried on the manufactory alone for more than twenty years, with almost exclusive control of the market. "He received five medals from different exhibitions, testimonials of value to the merits of his goods." He continued to be actively engaged in this business up to the time of his death and since that time it has been conducted by one of his sons, Arthur B. Robinson, who purchased it.

October 25, 1825, Mr. Robinson married Rebecca W. Richards, daughter of Edward and Amy Richards, of this town. They had five children: Ellen R., who married John C. Douglass, of Leavenworth, Kan., and is now deceased; Jarvis W.; Isabel E., Mrs. Joseph Cushman; Arthur B.;[1] and Adelaide R., Mrs. M. B. Mackreth. Mrs. Robinson survived her husband for nearly nine years and died August 16, 1888, in the eighty-fourth year of her age.

[1] Jarvis W. and Arthur B. Robinson are both deceased (1898).

Mr. Robinson lived a wise and useful life, one valuable to his town and especially to his community, and died full of days, December 26, 1879. He was a tall, fine-looking man; his face had a somewhat grave expression, but it was withal kindly, as was his manner. He was a thoroughly self-contained, self-controlled man, reserved and undemonstrative in his nature, but none the less deeply true and sincere; a man of few words, but those he spoke were words of common sense and of perhaps uncommon wisdom. Instinctively it would be said of him: He is a man to be trusted. He was a very kind husband and father, and while it was in his home and by his family that his loss was most deeply felt, his death was a bereavement to a large circle of friends and to the whole town.[1] "He was not only a representative manufacturer, he was more. He made his mark in every sphere with which he was connected. A public-spirited citizen, he did much to benefit and improve his town. The pretty village of Robinsonville is largely indebted to him for its growth and prosperity, and had he been willing to sacrifice private interests for public positions, he could many times have occupied them, for he was often urged to accept them." Politically he was a Whig and then a Republican. He was an earnest defender of the Union during our Civil War; he was zealous in the cause of humanity "and a firm supporter of law, of order, and of justice."

"He was widely known as one of the most enterprising, generous and noble-hearted men in his remarkably enterprising community. A chapter of eulogy would fail to enumerate or do justice to his generous deeds, of which hundreds have been the recipients."

SAVERY.

SERGEANT ABRAHAM BAILEY SAVERY was the oldest son of Dr. Phineas and Sally A. Bailey Savery and was born in this town May 23, 1837. The father was for many years the leading physician of the East village, in the central part of which he resided. He had one son by his first wife — Phineas Savery, Esq., a lawyer in Baldwin, Miss. — and the following seven children by the wife above mentioned: Hope B., Mrs. Waterman; Abraham B.; Cyrus B.; Job B.; Nancy M., Mrs. Ryder; Amy B.; and Henry O.; of whom Mrs. Ryder, now of Wareham, this State, is the only survivor.

Abraham spent his boyhood in this town, receiving a high-school educa-

[1] Many people in recalling Mr. Robinson will, no doubt, think of him as he appeared passing through our streets in his carriage, and they will remember the old white horse he drove for so many years about the town. The creature's record was so unusual that it does not seem out of place to mention it in this connection. He lived to be over thirty years of age, which is about three times the average life of a horse, and during almost all those years he served this one master faithfully and intelligently. He was so remarkable for his age that he was known all over town, and doubtless outside its limits. He became a great pet with the family and as long as he lived he received the care and attention of a humble trusty friend. Such instances of longevity are very rare, but two similar ones known to the writer were of gray or white horses, who, like this one, retained their strength and speed for considerably more than a quarter of a century. — EDITOR.

tion. When the war broke out he was among the first to enlist, and was a member of Company I, Seventh Massachusetts Regiment. He faithfully discharged all his duties in his company and regiment as long as he lived, "as a loyal Christian soldier." In the latter part of 1862 he came home to recover from the effects of a severe illness he had contracted in the army. Before his strength was fully restored, however, his furlough expired, and, though he was unable to do so, he cheerfully returned to his duties in the field, the severity of which he fully realized, for by this time the glamour and illusion were gone and the war had become a stern and determined reality. His health could not long endure the terrible strain of such experiences as our brave "Seventh" had, though his death was caused by an acute attack of disease. He died December 16, 1863, of pleurisy, after an illness of eight days' duration. His remains were brought home and the funeral services were held on December 24, at the Second Congregational Church, and he was buried with military honors.

A memorial of him was published soon after his death, and the various extracts from his letters to a friend, which were printed in it, show how conscientious he was as a soldier. He enlisted, "counting the cost." His motives were the highest and noblest, those of true Christian patriotism. One or two quotations from his letters may well be given here. As early as October, 1861, in speaking of several deaths which had occurred in the army or elsewhere he says: —

"I have lost a brother and, ere the close of the war, my mother may be grieved again at the loss of her first-born son. For her sake, I would that I might live, that I may be her support in the later years of a life that has been spent for the comfort and good of her children. 'T is a fearful retribution that has fallen upon us for permitting the curse of slavery to rest so long upon the land. The tears and suffering of the poor slaves for more than two centuries are now to be expiated by the blood of their task-masters, and those whose hands were idle to stop the sin. Efforts are now making to have us placed in the most advanced position of this army, and I hope they will be successful. I am willing, if it will give the death-blow to slavery, to give my blood upon the field of battle." Again, a year later, he writes: "In the mercy of God my blood has not yet been called for. Thousands more worthy of life, lie low upon the battle-fields, while I am still safe from harm. Surely they who return from the war ought to be *patriots in life* of the *highest excellence* if our country is restored to its former integrity and harmony; for the blood of Patriot-Martyrs that has already consecrated anew every letter and word of the 'constitution and laws,' of this once happy and peaceful land. Can it be that much more is to be shed? Apparently we are little nearer a peaceful solution of this vexed question than ever, and battles are yet talked of soon to come, even more bloody than their predecessors. I think now, as I always have, that so long as a man is owned by his fellow-man upon this soil, we can never again be a united country, and if I must remain here or run my risk in battling for the remainder of my three years, I had much rather do so than have another *slavery compromise* patched up." Again, in speaking of the cause of the war: "But a *reckoning time has come now*, and *will come again*, if the evil be not rooted out *entirely* from the land." He was always confident of victory in the end, for under the same date he says: "Unless one has faith in the Almighty as ruler of all the nations of the earth, the aspect of everything is *dark* at present; — but Hope has not yet left *me;* the struggle may be long, but ultimate success seems certain for us. The fervent prayers of Christians will not fall unheeded round the Mercy Seat. Were everything we desire gained by the mere *wish*, without struggle on our part, 't would be soon forgotten; but who will *lightly* estimate the blessings of Peace and Union when this strife shall terminate."

We quote also from the funeral sermon preached by his pastor, Rev. W. W. Belden, on the occasion of his burial. He says: "We look for the true soldier, '*first in the man.*' What is it that wins love and makes the world take its noblest sons to its heart and cherish them profoundly? *Manliness — true Christian manliness.* It is this, and not fame nor rank that awakens lasting admiration. Emperors have gone down to the grave from heights of power, blazing in gold and purple without a mourner; but when a MAN DIES, *humanity mourns.* I come, my hearers, to bring you a cluster of rose-buds for your cypress wreath — to speak to you, tenderly, of one with whom you are all familiar, from your childhood. I can tell you only what you so well know. Noble by nature, nobler by education, we can all say with his commanding officer, — 'I bear eager testimony not only to the efficiency of the soldier, but to the *genuineness of the man.*' Slight in form, frail in health, impulsive in spirit, of an active, inquiring, cultivated mind, attaining a higher intellectual position than many men of his age, with a high sense of honor, modest and unassuming, never appreciating his own powers, diffident and distrustful of himself, he had an unaffected modesty which in these days is so rare a jewel, therefore so precious — *a real diamond of character.* Always truthful, conscientious, generous in disposition, kind of heart, capable of noble purpose and lofty plans. Such a man was Abraham Savery. The first sound of an assault on government developed the manly and heroic nature which dwelt in the soul of the magnanimous boy. He gave himself to his country at once, with the same self-denying spirit that had characterized him ever more.

"I am reminded that he was an affectionate and dutiful son. The death of his father, the 'beloved physician of Attleborough,' ten years since, devolved upon Abraham, for the most part, the support of his remaining parent. His kindness and love for this widowed mother were remarkable. He was unwearied, and diligent in his devotion to that afflicted parent, doing so much to smooth and to brighten her rugged and sombre way. *Patriotism* was a ruling principle in his soul. He went to the war from noble motives. We thank God for the record of such lives, — the hallowed memories of our soldier-dead running back from pews in this house of prayer to graves in yonder cemetery. Their spirit shall never die. It shall outlive the ruins of empires, and of eras, and passing through the web of time, a shuttle in the hands of the Almighty, shall weave the bright colors of self-denial, loyalty to God and liberty, into the mighty fabric of human souls, which shall be unrolled at the judgment and then hung up as the golden tapestry of heaven. The Christian hero dying for his country is a matchless martyr."

The preacher closed with a beautiful appeal to comrades in age of the dead: "Young men — I have portrayed before you the life of a beloved youth — your friend and mine. I hold him up for your emulation. His last battle has been fought; his last march made; his last victory won; no drum beat will ever rouse him from his slumbers — he has gone to that genial clime where war is unknown — where the peace of God fills the soul. From that soldier's coffin there rises an appeal far more eloquent than human voice can make. That pale face — those mute lips appeal to all your *manhood* — to all your *patriotism* — to all your *immortality*, to prepare to meet death as your comrade has done. Then can you follow where this young hero so nobly led — to the battle-field — to victory and to the grave of the *Christian soldier whose soul is marching on to rest in the bosom of his God.*"

JOB BAILEY SAVERY, a younger brother of the above, was born January 24, 1841. The common schools were his only means of education, and when but sixteen years of age he went West, tempted no doubt by the stories of great possibilities in the way of making money which were extant about that then less well-known portion of our country. Mr. Savery did not, however, try business or farming, but spent the larger portion of the time he remained as a teacher in the States of Illinois and Wisconsin. At the end of five years the war broke out and he returned home. On the first of September, 1862, he enlisted in Company H, Fortieth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. He was sergeant in this company, and was always faithful to his

every duty, whether as an officer or a soldier. He was with his regiment "from Gettysburg to Richmond." As long as he lived "he always retained a strong love for his companions in arms, and was one of the regiment's executive committee after the disbanded veterans had reunited themselves as an association for mutual assistance and good fellowship." He remained in the service for three years and received his discharge on June 16, 1865, when the war was over.

On his return home he became bookkeeper for R. Blackinton & Co. at the Falls, and remained with that firm until 1868. During that year he returned to his native village and became associated with Oscar Thayer in jewelry business. The firm was Savery, Thayer & Co., but not long after Mr. Thayer sold his interest, and this was purchased by Charles Mason, with whom Mr. Savery continued until 1872, when the firm was dissolved. Then Mr. Savery with his brother Henry entered the grocery business under the name of Savery Brothers. In 1873 he was chosen town clerk, was reëlected to the same position every subsequent year of his life, a period of fourteen years, and was holding the office at the time of his death. In 1875 he relinquished his grocery business, and from that time on devoted himself exclusively to the duties of various public positions.

When he first accepted the position of town clerk the office was kept in the old depot building, later in a small building on South Main Street, and for several years previous to his death it had occupied its present commodious room in Sturdy's Block. During the period of his clerkship the town largely increased in population — nearly doubled — and increased largely also in the extent of its manufactures, in its wealth and importance, and this brought a corresponding increase in the "extent, variety, and importance of the duties of his office." Mr. Savery soon became thoroughly conversant with the requirements of his position, and showed a special adaptability to it. He had doubtless become better acquainted with the history of the town during the years of his service than any other man, and this rendered his presence at public meetings of marked value. Able from knowledge and ability to form correct opinions upon questions which came up, he was always willing to present them when requested to do so, though he never forced them forward He expressed them when occasion required with clearness and precision, and not infrequently they served to settle matters of importance. As the years passed on he grew to be more and more valuable to the town, a fact which was well understood and gladly acknowledged by his fellow-citizens who when he died felt they had sustained an irreparable loss.

In 1880 he was elected selectman and assessor, serving on that board until 1885, and the following year he was again elected assessor. In 1884, when the Board of Registrars was created by statute, he was made its clerk for this town and retained the office until his death; and he was clerk of the Attleborough Water District until it became united with the Fire District, of

which he was also clerk. He was an active member of the Young Men's Christian Association and clerk of the Second Congregational Parish. He belonged to William A. Streeter Post, G. A. R.; was one of the ex-commanders of Company H of the Fortieth Regimental Association; secretary of the Royal Arcanum; collector of the American Legion of Honor; and treasurer of the Temple of Honor. "These varied positions brought him in close relations with every class of people, to all of whom he proved a friend and adviser, and while no one's life is really necessary for the work of the world, it will be impossible to find those who can at once take up all the matters which he kept well in charge."

November 10, 1869, he married Isadora E., the daughter of Mr. William Briggs, of this town. They had four children, of whom three are living: Willie B., Grace A., and Job L. Mr. Savery was a most devoted husband and father. Small things often show most clearly a person's character. It is said that whenever returning from North Attleborough, as the train passed his home, he always gave a signal from the car window to his children and had an answering one from them. No matter how busy he might be he never omitted this pleasant little ceremony.

He died October 3, 1886, after an illness of some weeks' duration which was not considered of a serious or alarming nature until shortly before his death. The funeral took place in his own church on the fifth instant. Business was very generally suspended and a large number of people attended the service, which was conducted by his pastor, Rev. Walter Barton, assisted by Rev. W. A. Luce, of the Methodist Church, and Rev. M. Canfield, a former pastor in town. Colonel J. A. Dalton and Captain Litchfield of Mr. Savery's regiment were present with the Grand Army, and there were delegations from the organizations to which he belonged. He was buried at Woodlawn with the special service of the G. A. R.

In the course of his most appropriate discourse Mr. Barton said: "There are empty seats all around us which none but the familiar forms can fill. There is a vacant place in the ranks of the Grand Army, a vacancy in the Y. M. C. A., a faithful public servant is not here; the causes of education and temperance have lost a friend; the Sunday-school misses one of its best teachers; the church has one less ardent attendant and supporter. Let us imagine what the world would be if, like him who lies here, every parent were seen on Sunday morning wending their way to the sanctuary with their family; if, like him, we were devoted to what is good and true, and right. If the world were filled with men like him, how different it would be." Another said: "Mr. Savery was a man of sterling character, firm in his adherence to what he deemed right, yet tolerant with those who disagreed. He was never too busy to attend to those who sought him, and never known to have other than a calm and pleasant manner."

He was a devoted and zealous Christian. He was for many years a mem-

ber of the Second Congregational Church and a teacher in its Sunday-school, and he organized the Sunday-school out of which the Central Church at the Falls village grew. His religion had no bigotry in it, and it was of a cheerful, practical kind such as brings happiness to the heart and shines brightest in the affairs of everyday life. He was a good man; there can be no higher encomium bestowed upon him. The following testimonial was "elegantly engrossed and handsomely framed," and presented to his family: —

We, the members of the Board of Registrars of the town of Attleboro, desire to add our testimony to the high moral worth, gentlemanly character, courteous deportment and amiable disposition of our late associate, Job B. Savery. His genial disposition and uniform affability has ever rendered our labors pleasant, his painstaking and familiarity with the duties of the Board has done much to make accurate work, and we feel that his death is a great loss to our body.

We wish to express our sympathy to the heart-broken family of our esteemed friend in their great affliction, and with them sincerely mourn that he, whose life was so full of present usefulness and future promise, has been suddenly and early called from the scenes of busy life to the rest that remains for those whose life, whether long or short, has been so perfectly rounded by conscientiousness and good works as to deserve the plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Signed John W. Cody, Patrick F. Grady, Fred. B. Byram, } Board of Registrars.

No more fitting inscription could be placed above Job Savery than a few lines from a poem which a friend quoted in a notice of him: —

"The good he did cannot be hid
From those whom he befriended.
His useful days will speak his praise,
A more enduring story
Than stone or bust above his dust
Could tell to give him glory."

Charles Edwin Wallace Sherman was born in Plympton, Mass., August 1, 1827. His paternal grandmother was a descendant of Captain Miles Standish, "of Mayflower fame," her father, Jonathan Standish, being the sixth in descent from that doughty Puritan warrior. Mr. Sherman's father, William Sherman, was a dyer and a manufacturer of woolen goods. He was born in Plymouth, the son of Thomas Sherman, a hatter in that place. He lived in several towns in this State — Plympton, Dighton, and Halifax, and died at the age of seventy-three. He had four children, of whom Charles was the third.

When but a boy, he, Charles, worked in his father's factory at Dighton, learning and working in nearly all parts of the manufacture of wool, from its natural state "in the fleece, to the finish." This kind of work proved to be too severe for his strength, however, and he was obliged to give it up for some lighter and easier occupation. Through the assistance of friends he obtained a place in one of the jewelry shops in this town and spent two years in learning the trade of an engraver. April 1, 1848, when about twenty-

one, he came here and settled, working at his trade for six years. At the end of that time he formed a copartnership with George K. Davis, "the firm being George K. Davis & Co., gold and silver refiners, assayers, and smelters." At the end of two years, in 1856, Mr. Sherman built a shop and conducted a business of this kind on his own account until 1875, when he took his son William W. Sherman into company with him and the firm thus formed is still in existence. Mr. Sherman has worked hard during his whole life of sixty years. He has amassed a comfortable fortune and deserves the success he has attained, as the just reward of his care and industry. He has been strictly a business man and has not cared to interest himself especially in public affairs. He is much respected by his friends and as a citizen.

SMITH.

STEPHEN SMITH was born in Mansfield, in January, 1796. He came to this town, when quite a young man probably, and bought the Joel Read farm, which contained about eighty acres and cost him some six or seven hundred dollars. Here he took up his residence and became quite a successful farmer. By his industry and thrift he accumulated what in those days and for one in his occupation was quite a handsome property, its value at his death being six thousand dollars. He was active in both town and county affairs. He was a member of the Free Soil party when its adherents in town numbered only three or four. He was a Calvinist Baptist, and rigid in his belief in the doctrines of that peculiar faith. He was "a prudent, temperate, reserved man, of few words, honest in his dealings, and of sterling integrity." His first wife was Ruth Hodges, by whom he had one son, Stephen N. His second wife was Mercy S. Ide, a daughter of Nathaniel and Hannah Daggett Ide, whose father was Colonel John Daggett, of Revolutionary fame. She was named Mercy Shepard from her grandmother, wife of Colonel Daggett and daughter of John Shepard "the ancient." They had six children, five daughters and one son, all of whom are deceased with the exception of the latter, the subject of the following sketch.

THERON IDE SMITH was born on his father's farm in the Read and Ide neighborhood, April 9, 1836. He worked on the farm till he was eighteen, obtaining what education this life of a farmer's boy enabled him to get in the common schools. The prospects this mode of life then afforded him were not sufficient to satisfy his ambition and he decided to learn the trade of jewelry-making. He went to North Attleborough and apprenticed himself to Ira Richards & Co. At the end of a year business was dull and in that establishment he could only get six cents an hour and eight hours' work in the day. He then tried for employment elsewhere and found it with J. T. Bacon & Co., in Plainville, where he was paid a dollar a day for "chasing." He was such an excellent workman that his employers soon raised his pay to a dollar and a quarter a day, but at the end of six months he was obliged to

give up chasing entirely, and indeed all work for some months, on account of his health. When able to work again he was employed for a short time "at the bench" by Barrows & Sturdy, in 1856. Not long afterwards he began to work for Merritt & Draper, and remained with them until June 1, 1859, when he joined with D. D. Codding and they started manufacturing "in a small way" on the first floor of the building they now occupy.

A year from that time these gentlemen moved to Mansfield Centre, where they carried on a very moderate business until the breaking out of the war, which had such an unfavorable effect upon their affairs that they were obliged to discontinue operations altogether. They could not get their pay for goods they had sold, which compelled them to leave their tools idle, and in May, 1861, these were burned with the building in which they were, and the firm thus lost everything. Mr. William Boyd, of Mansfield, was at that time making cap-boxes for the army and Mr. Smith entered his employ and stayed until better times gave him encouragement to try his former occupation again. During the spring of the following year he returned to North Attleborough, and from July, 1862, till July, 1865, he had charge of Merritt & Draper's shop. At this time he entered business again with his former partner and C. H. Ames, as Codding, Smith & Co., and for two years this firm met with moderate success. Then Mr. Ames withdrew and A. E. Codding entered the firm, the name remaining the same. From this date, 1867, for six years the firm was very prosperous and then Mr. Smith purchased the interest of each of his partners and continued alone for a year. Then he sold a half-interest to D. D. Codding and thus formed his present firm of T. I. Smith & Co. This firm has been uninterruptedly prosperous, the only change since its formation being the admission of a former salesman, H. H. Curtis, as a third partner.

May 16, 1856, Mr. Smith married Emily C., the daughter of Abiel and Chloe Daggett Codding. They have one child, Eva C., Mrs. Henry H. Curtis. "Mr. Smith has always been in the ranks of intelligent and independent thinkers. He has always been in accord with Republican principles, and cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln. Steady and reliable in his business, pleasant and affable in his intercourse with others, unassuming and modest in his demeanor, he is considered one of the town's solid citizens, and a man of unobtrusive worth."

STANLEY.

The first of this name who emigrated from England was one Matthew Stanley, who settled in Martha's Vineyard. Some members of his family went to Connecticut Colony, and some to Topsfield, this State, and from the latter branch came the ancestors of the Stanleys in this town. Six men came here from Topsfield very early. They were Thomas, Nathaniel, Joseph, Samuel, Jacob, and John, the last three being brothers. The first and the

fourth are known to have been here in 1707, and all settled near the Falls. Jacob, one of the three brothers mentioned, came here about 1717. He married Elizabeth Guild and had ten children. Of these Benjamin was the second son and child. He married Abigail Spear and had three children. Stephen, second son and child, and born here in town, was a farmer, a cabinetmaker, and for a number of years the agent for the Falls Manufacturing Company. He was an energetic and a successful man, and he lived to a good old age. His wife was Martha, the daughter of Jonathan and Martha Pond Stanley, and they had three children.

Stephen Olney Stanley, again the second son and child, and one of the last-mentioned three children, was born June 11, 1801, "in the house opposite No. 5 school-house:" He had a common-school and academic education, but when quite young he entered the "Company's store" at the Falls as clerk for his father. He was occupied there for several years and in addition had farmwork to attend to during the summer months. Later he and his father "closed their connection with the company," and then Mr. Stanley turned his attention wholly to farming. At first he took charge only of his father's farm, but finally became its owner. After his marriage he had lived at his old home and it remained his residence during his life. It is the general idea that the ordinary farmer in New England can get nothing more than a living from his acres. This was the case with Mr. Stanley, though he labored very industriously. "He was a perfectly just man, fair and honorable in all his dealings," and of him it was often said in the familiar phrase, "He was too honest for his own good." He had no doubt too humble an opinion of his own powers to assert himself in the way which seems necessary now to ensure a man's financial success, but he had what was better than that alone: the success of a life of duties conscientiously done; and there can be no better or higher. If his duties were simple, he was content to do them as they came to him without craving something more prominent or striking in the eyes of the world; he had no desire for publicity, though had circumstances demanded he would have proved himself capable of holding office acceptably. What he said of himself shows, though he was unconscious of it, what he really was — a good man. He believed in the principles of true religion but never became a church member, because, as he said, he did not think himself good enough. The men who feel like that are often the best fitted for the places they are too modest to take; but no matter how retiring they may be their influence for what is highest and best in life cannot be confined within the narrow limits they themselves prescribe for it, but is felt in the community about them in a far wider and more enduring manner than they in their unobtrusiveness dream possible. Mr. Stanley was, as some one has said, "an unassuming and useful member of society, reserved in demeanor, and enjoyed the esteem of all," and of him it could probably be said: "He had not an enemy during his entire life."

September 28, 1830, he married Betsey S., the daughter of Artemas and Betsey Daggett Stanley. Mrs. Stanley was a member of the same family as her husband, Jacob, their first ancestor in town, being their common great-grandfather. Her family lived in the west part of the town. Her grandfather was prominent there in the First Congregational Church, and her father in 1841–42 was Representative to the State Legislature. Mr. Stanley died about 1875. He had five children, of whom three are now living: Martha (Mrs. Edward C. Knapp), Benjamin, and Stephen. [First named is dead.]

The latter left home in 1861 to enter the army. He enlisted as a musician in the Seventh Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, and after fourteen months' service was discharged, as other musicians were. After a short stay in town he went to Taunton, this State, then to Yonkers, N. Y., where he worked in an armory, then to Waterbury, Conn., where he learned the machinist's trade, and later he worked as a toolmaker in a brass factory. In 1871 he returned to the Falls and formed a partnership with his brother and brother-in-law to manufacture jewelry. The latter has retired from the firm, but the two brothers continue the business together, and they have enjoyed a very considerable degree of prosperity.

The Stanley family has been a numerous one and there have been many branches of it here in town and many of its members have been prominent here and elsewhere. The most prominent of the name now in town is Lyman M. Stanley, resident in the east part. He has for several years been very active in town and especially in district matters. To him chiefly perhaps is due the rise and in large measure the continuance of the division movement of 1886–87. He never from the first doubted its ultimate success, and he worked enthusiastically and persistently — in the face of adverse criticism, which was both abundant and severe — to bring the question to a speedy and final issue. He is as sure of the future increase of prosperity in that portion of the town still named Attleborough as he was of the result of the old town's action before it took place. Dr. William Stanley, previously mentioned, also belongs to this family, whose members, whether they have been agriculturists or business or professional men, seem always to have been distinguished for their industry, intelligence, and honesty of purpose.

Mr. Edward O. Stanley, well known to many in town and formerly a member of the publishing firm of Stanley & Usher, of Boston, is a member of this family, and an Attleborough man.[1]

STURDY.

The founder of this family in town and in the country was John Jenkins, who was born of a very good family, in Cardiff, Wales, February 9, 1791.

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[1] The Editor wishes to acknowledge her indebtedness to him for many valuable suggestions he has made in regard to the attempt to bring to completion this work, and to express her gratitude for the assistance he so courteously rendered.

When but fifteen years of age the sergeant of a pressgang, either by strategy or force, induced him to enlist in the British Navy, and, though he was under the prescribed age, "his parents were powerless to rescue him after he had signed the agreement." The discipline in the navy of Great Britain was at that time, as is well known, extremely severe, and after serving something more than two years young Jenkins made up his mind to escape. His first attempt was made at Land's End, no great distance from his home, but he was captured and taken back to his ship. Before twelve months had passed, however, he made a second attempt, and this time he was successful. While his ship was "weighing anchor off the coast of Palermo, Sicily," he let himself through a porthole and swam three miles to the shore. An American captain smuggled him on board his ship and carried him to the port of Leghorn, in Italy. An American sailor had recently died in the hospital there, and for the sum of five dollars Mr. Jenkins bought his "Protection Paper." The personal description it contained suited the purchaser fairly well, and he of course assumed the name of the deceased sailor — William Sturdy. This is by no means a singular case, for many like it occurred at that period. There are persons now residing in town whose ancestors, it is said, for similar reasons changed their names, taking whatever sobriquet suggested itself as a surname and a means of preventing the dreaded identification and consequent forced return to the hard service from which they were trying to escape.[1] This impressment of seamen into her navy by England was not confined to English subjects but it extended to American citizens as well, and was one of the special causes of the War of 1812.

William Sturdy then shipped on an American schooner, lying at Leghorn, and bound for the United States. He finally landed on June 9, 1809, at Beverly, Mass., and thus became an American citizen, and of this Commonwealth. From the port of Beverly he made several voyages as mate of American schooners, but finally abandoned the seas. Meanwhile, "at twenty two years of age," he married Clarissa Whittemore, of Beverly. Her father had come to this town, and when he left the maritime service Mr. Sturdy and his wife followed him, and they all at first settled at "Attleborough City." Mr. Sturdy subsequently bought a farm lying on the west shore of the Falls pond. He resided there until 1827, and there ten of his fourteen children were born. About that time, 1827, "the initial efforts in cotton man-

[1] It is a little singular that the ancestors of both Mr. and Mrs. George A. Adams should have had experiences similar to the one just related. In the case of the former a change of name did not prove to be necessary, but in that of the latter it was so. A young man by the name of Newton was at one time with a friend attempting escape from this hated naval service. Being in imminent danger of capture, to the question, "Who are you?" one answered, "I am Going," and the other, "I am Coming," so-and-so, and these quickly assumed names became their permanent surnames, the old ones being discarded. From the latter the Cummings, of Medway, and from the former the Gowens, of Franklin, are descended, those of the last name residing in town being from that place.

ufacturing on the Blackstone river had opened the way for the employment of minors," and Mr. Sturdy availed himself of this opportunity because it had become impossible for him to procure a proper subsistence for his large family from his farm. He resided in several of the manufacturing villages of Rhode Island, and finally settled in Blackstone, then in the town of Mendon, Mass. Here he died, October 16, 1834.[1]

After the lapse of something over twenty years from the time he went away, one after another of his sons returned to this town to settle, until six of the eight became residents, and four of these remain still as permanent citizens.

JOHN F. STURDY is the oldest of these four. He was born in this town, and was probably not more than five or six years old when his father removed to Rhode Island. As a boy and youth he worked in the cotton mills in the several villages where his family resided. He began business for himself in Providence, in 1848, with his brother James. They made dies, cutters, and tools for jewelers' use. After continuing this occupation for a few months, the manufacture of jewelry was added to it and both continued for a short time, when the brothers decided to remove to this town. In 1849 the business was located at Robinsonville, with a third partner. The Sturdys had "discovered the process of making what is now known as rolled or stock plate," and their firm of Draper, Sturdy & Co. was the first to introduce this stock into Attleborough and to manufacture here rolled-gold plate jewelry. They also made known their process of making this plate to some other jewelers, and the result was a very general adoption of their method. Mr. Sturdy had several partners during the first twelve or fourteen years of his residence here, but from 1862 until 1875 he was alone in business. During the latter year one of his sons became associated with him, and subsequently two others, and the firm then assumed its present name.

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[1] For the benefit of the younger members of the present generation, who know nothing of mill operatives except as they are to be found to-day, it should be said that in the early days of cotton manufacturing the people who sought employment in the factories were of a totally different class. So-called "skilled labor" is not required by the improved machinery in our cotton mills at the present time, but the fact which most fully explains the change that has taken place in the class of employees is that sixty years ago the avenues of industry open in New England villages to people of intelligence, those of skill of mind as well as hand, were very limited in number as compared with to-day, and such as then presented themselves had of necessity to be made use of until others more desirable and suitable could be found and entered upon. To a certain extent what was true in cotton has been true in our own greater manufacture, jewelry. Very much is now accomplished by machinery which could formerly be done only by clever men by handwork, and therefore a large proportion, comparatively, of the employees in the shops are unskilled. A class has sprung up in our communities scarcely known a half-century ago, when the sons of the settlers of the soil, our solid and substantial citizens, who in their turn became our worthiest and leading citizens, began life as workers "at the bench." It can readily be seen then that the first employees in the mills were from among the best people in their various communities. To the capable, intelligent, and ambitious, as notably in the case of the Sturdy family, and indeed in others in our own town, this occupation was but the first stepping-stone to great advancement and to the gaining of most excellent positions in after life, positions calculated to satisfy high ambitions.

Mr. Sturdy's residence is at Robinsonville, now a part of the Falls, and at no great distance from the spot of his birth. He is interested in the improvement and beautifying of this pleasant little village, and many years ago took steps in that direction by making an attractive home for himself, which he surrounded by well-kept grounds. The brothers are alike in this respect. The firstfruits of their success are expended in making for themselves suitable and beautiful homes, which can always be sustained in a suitable manner and strictly within their means. But they do not stop here; the comfort of the family properly secured, they turn their attention to works of general improvement and benevolence.

Mr. John Sturdy is no exception in this respect. He is a liberal man in matters of charity. He was especially generous in his gifts to the Central Church society, and was one of the unusually efficient building committee when its edifice was erected. All that he does is done quietly, for anything like ostentation is unknown to him; but he does his full share of what pertains to one in his position, that of a highly esteemed man and citizen of ample means.

James H. Sturdy was born in this town September 26, 1823. In 1827 the family left town. Twenty-two years afterward, in 1849, he returned, and, as has been stated, commenced manufacturing jewelry at Robinsonville with his brother, J. F. Sturdy, and H. M. Draper, a pioneer in making rolled-gold plate or stock. He left this firm at the end of a year and went to the Falls, then a village distinct entirely from the other, and there formed a partnership with H. F. Barrows, with Ira Richards & Co. as silent partners. This arrangement lasted about three years, the firm meanwhile moving to North Attleborough to a shop owned by the Richards. Previous to the expiration of the term of copartnership Mr. Sturdy sold out his interest to Mr. Barrows. He then formed another copartnership and went to Sheldonville, where he built a shop. At the end of some two or three years inducements were held out which decided him to remove to Wrentham Centre. It had been difficult to procure tenements for help, these being in many cases held by the larger firms, and in Wrentham Centre advantages in this direction were offered. There Mr. Sturdy again built a shop, and he was the first jewelry manufacturer in that town. He remained there until 1860.

About that time his firm met with financial difficulties, and, soon after, the breaking out of the war caused a general prostration of business. These were the causes of the dissolution of the firm, and Mr. Sturdy came to East Attleborough and took up his residence. He there soon engaged in making badges for the use of soldiers, and for a year or two this was the principal business in that village, the demand being very small for goods in the regular lines of jewelry business. After the peculiar disturbances which were caused by the outbreak of the Rebellion had subsided and the country had settled itself to a long state of war, business generally gradually came back to its

regular lines, and badge-making after a time gave place largely to the former ordinary kinds of ornament manufacturing, which increased very largely.

Mr. Sturdy remained alone until 1867, when he associated with himself Fred. I. Marcy, who had previously been acting as his salesman, and the business of this firm was carried on in Providence. This business was prosperous, and the firm continued unchanged for ten years. At the end of that time, in 1877, the senior partner sold his interest to the junior and retired from active business. While carrying on his manufacturing in Providence, Mr. Sturdy retained his residence in this town, and still continues to do so.

CHARLES H. STURDY was born in Slatersville, R. I., June 28, 1828. When but eight or nine years old he began to work in a cotton mill and continued to do so to a greater or less extent for some ten years. Then, when about eighteen, he left home and found employment for a time in Fall River. His childhood stories of the father's former occupation may have been alluring to his imagination, for in 1846 he went to sea. A voyage of seven months was sufficient to remove all glamour, if there had been such, and on his return home he went to Blackstone with his brother William and there learned the painter's trade. After this he worked in Connecticut for a while, both in a factory and at his trade. Very naturally, however, his attention became turned toward Attleborough and the jewelry business, and about 1850 he came to Robinsonville and learned that trade in his brother's establishment there. This done he went to Plainville and there became foreman for Draper, Tifft & Bacon.

In 1859 he came to East Attleborough and entered into business with his brother Albert. The shop in which they were located having been burned, the firm went temporarily to Mansfield. The manufacturing was brought back to East Attleborough in 1861, and from that time until 1863, during his brother's absence in the army, Mr. Sturdy had entire charge of the business. He was a member of the firm until 1871, when he retired. He had shared in the misfortunes and dull times of its early days, and he remained long enough to share in its prosperity during the years immediately following the close of the war. Soon after his withdrawal Mr. Sturdy took up coal business, and has continued it ever since, and is one of the largest dealers in town.

In 1868 he married Eliza J. Hodges. They have two children: Ella J., Mrs. James E. Blake, residing in town, and Charles A., just completing his education. [He is married and resides in town.]

ALBERT W. STURDY is the eighth and youngest son and the thirteenth child in his family. He was born in Blackstone, March 4, 1831. The first seventeen years of his life were spent in that place and in Manville, a village in the town of Smithfield, R. I., on the Blackstone River. He was able to attend school only until he was ten years old, and then he began to work in the factories as a bobbin-boy. After a few years the opportunity for

learning an excellent trade was offered in his brother's shop here, and at the age of eighteen he came to Robinsonville, where for two years, from 1849 till 1851, he worked as an apprentice for Draper & Sturdy. At the end of that time, "having by over-work and strict economy, saved a sufficient sum of money," the young man determined to possess himself of what he had learned to know was of the highest value and for the lack of which he realized nothing else could fully compensate him — an education. He entered Thetford Academy in Vermont, and remained two years. This was a course of action which cannot be too highly commended, one whose good results make themselves patent to everybody, and all youths in similar circumstances would do well to follow Mr. Sturdy's example.

After completing his studies, as he had planned to do, he returned to this town and took the place of bookkeeper for Barrows & Sturdy. Early in the year 1856 he went to New York City to act as salesman for J. H. Sturdy & Co., and remained in the employ of this firm until 1859, when he again returned to town and with his brother Charles formed the partnership previously mentioned and known as Sturdy Brothers. The first two years of this firm's existence were trying ones, though during that time its members had succeeded in establishing a business; but the breaking out of the war for a time prostrated everything.

Mr. Sturdy, like many others, felt that the outbreak would soon be quelled and business would therefore soon again resume its normal condition — a widespread hope which was soon dispelled. On hearing the news of our defeat at the first battle of Bull Run he enlisted, and on July 23, 1861, he enrolled himself as a private in Company I, Eighteenth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, the recruiting for which was being carried on at Wrentham Centre. This regiment was attached to the Fifth Corps of the Army of the Potomac and served through the Peninsula, General Pope's and Maryland campaigns. After the battle of Shepardstown, Va., which occurred September 20, 1862, Mr. Sturdy, with other members of the regiment, was detailed to return to Massachusetts "on recruiting service." On reaching Boston he found a commission as second lieutenant awaiting him and he was transferred to Company K of his regiment. He remained at home in the discharge of these recruiting duties about six weeks and then returned to the front. His regiment was at Falmouth, Va., and he joined it in time to participate in the battle of Fredericksburg, on the thirteenth of December, 1862. He was in command of a company and in the second charge made by the Eighteenth on Marye's Heights "he received a gun shot wound through the middle of his left foot." He was taken to Seminary Hospital at Georgetown, D. C., and kept there for six weeks. During that time he received a commission as first lieutenant from Governor Andrew. He was finally able to reach home, by the aid of crutches, about February, 1863. His leave of absence was necessarily extended several times, his

progress toward recovery was so slow; and in April, under a "General Order" issued by the War Department, he returned to Washington, there to be examined as to his ability to again perform active service within a certain stated time. The Surgeon-General, after the required examination, "placed him on the list for permanent discharge," and this was obtained April 22, 1863. It was a great while before he apparently recovered from the effects of his wound, and some of these are probably felt even now and always will be; but no man can regret a disability sustained in such a service or fail to be proud of so honorable a scar.

Mr. Sturdy very soon resumed his place in his firm, and just at that time there was a general revival of business throughout the North. Until the close of the war there were large orders for army badges of all kinds received by this firm; but for some time before, the legitimate lines of jewelry had been gaining ground and were subsequently taken up exclusively. From 1866 till 1870 Mr. Sturdy resided in Brooklyn, as during those years he assumed that portion of the business connected with the firm's New York office. He retained his active interest in the concern until 1885, when he sold it out, but became a special partner for a limited term.

October 4, 1862, while at home on special detached service, he was married to Fidelia Page Thorp at her birthplace, South Boston. They have had three children: Irene Thorp, Mrs. Frederick Paul Hill, a widow; Clara Page, Mrs. Alfred F. Simmons; and a son, Albert W., Jr., who died at the age of four.

Mr. Sturdy was the pioneer in building handsome houses on South Main Street, as he commenced his just in advance of his nearest neighbor, Mr. Dean. He is a promoter of public improvements and of good works. He was one of the organizers of the Murray Parish and lent efficient aid in the building of its edifice. He has recently presented the society with a fine organ, which is called by his name, and to which gift he attached a very commendable condition, namely, that, should it be so desired by a proper number of persons in the village, the church should be opened for a course of lectures each winter season. He is secretary and treasurer of the Attleborough Gas Light Company and a director in the Attleborough Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He is a charter member of William A. Streeter Post, G. A. R., and a member of Ezekiel Bates Lodge of F. and A. M. He favored town division because he believed the resulting effects would prove to be beneficial to both portions, but he advocated its being brought about by vote of a majority of the citizens and in no other way. He disapproved entirely of the course suggested by some, of carrying the matter to the Legislature for further authoritative action in the event of the failure of favorable action on the part of the town. If the vote of July, 1887, had been against instead of for division, he and others who believed as he did would still have advocated the avoiding of any further public action for a time and have urged the wisdom of waiting until the idea, which seemed to be steadily

gaining ground, should reach that point where it would naturally have voiced itself again. In other words he joined with those who were willing to have the "good result" delayed in order to have it effected by the desire of the majority of the people of the town.

The Sturdy family is a striking illustration of what ability and determination can accomplish. These were their chief, indeed their only inheritance, and the result marks them as of more value than lands or gold. The sons fought bravely against the adverse circumstances of their early life and came out of the contest signally victorious, by their own inherent energy compelling the very disadvantages themselves to work in their favor, until by their own efforts they attained the positions to which by character and talents they were justly entitled, and which they fairly earned. The name assumed by chance, if there be *chance*, was especially appropriate to the father, who had need of and showed sturdy boldness, obstinacy, and "pluck" in the adventurous life which circumstances compelled him to enter in his early youth, and he needed great sturdiness to enable him to meet the many difficulties of some of his later years. There must too have been a spirit of unusual firmness and resolution in the mother, who was left when comparatively young to rear her little family alone. Such traits have enabled these sons to meet life and conquer it financially; and that is much, but that is not all. Having reached positions worth struggling for, they make use of the wealth meanwhile acquired in ways tending to improve and benefit the communities where they live. It is a good thing for Attleborough that the family settled within her limits and that so many of them have found a permanent home here.

THACHER.

The ancestors of this family who early came to this country from England have been mentioned in the account of the Rev. Peter Thacher, so long the exemplary and honored pastor of the Second Congregational Church in this town. Rev. Mr. Thacher had ten children, of whom Peter was the second child and oldest son. He was born in Attleborough October 21, 1753, and died December 4, 1814. He married Nanna, the daughter of Captain John Tyler, of this town. They had four children, of whom Peter was the oldest.

Deacon Peter Thacher was born March 30, 1779. Like his father, he was a farmer and lived on the place still in the possession of the family and used as the residence of one of its members. The house was built by the minister grandfather. At the proper season he had a house "raising," when, it is said, "he got upon the roof, and made a fervent prayer, dedicating it to God."[1] Deacon Thacher, as he was almost always familiarly called, was a man

[1] Up to the present time — August, 1894 — nothing positive was known of the time when this house was built, but an old letter found by a member of the family fixes upon the date with some degree of certainty. On September 15, 1749, Mr. Thacher, in writing to his "Hon'd & Dear Mother," says: "I

who commanded the entire respect of everybody. Many who did not know him personally can recall his tall, dignified form crowned with its covering of white hair, moving slowly up the aisles of the church of which he was so long a consistent member, and where he so long — even for fifty years — ministered in the deacon's office. His contemporaries have all passed away, but some remain who knew him in his middle life and as an old man, and all can testify to the esteem in which he was ever held.

He was a man of excellent judgment both in church matters and in general affairs. That his integrity was trusted and his judgment relied on is demonstrated by the fact that he was called upon to settle many estates and to become the guardian of many children. He was a conservative man. He took a very decided stand upon all questions, and having carefully and deliberately made up his mind he was sure to abide by his decisions. He was stern but just, and strictly honest, literally "his word was as good as his bond." It is related that upon one occasion a business man of this town, one whose property was doubtless worth several times the amount of Deacon Thacher's, had met with some difficulty in effecting a loan. It being necessary for him to have some money at once, he applied for assistance to Mr. Thacher, whom he found plowing. The good deacon left his plow, went to the bank, and had no trouble whatever in getting the required sum, his credit was so good. He was the first president of the Bristol County Agricultural Society and was treasurer of many different societies in the course of his life. During the War of 1812 he was frequently employed in carting specie for the government, another proof of his trustworthiness.

He married first, on May 7, 1804, Saloma, the daughter of Abial Dunham, of this town. Their children were four in number, only one of whom is now living, Anne Tyler Claflin, widow of Deacon Harvey Claflin, of this town. His second wife was Susan Carpenter, of Foxborough, by whom he also had four children: Susan, John, William, and Calista, three of whom are residents here. He died at his own homestead September 20, 1863, aged eighty-four years, five months, and twenty days. Mrs. Thacher was for a great many years the earnest and devoted superintendent of the Infant Sabbath-school in the Second Congregational Church. She taught the simple truths of the gospel to many little ones and turned many feet toward the paths of righteousness. Her good face and kindly eyes, beaming mildly through her spec-

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have put my house and Ten acres of the best land upon my Farm to sale, but if I sell shall reserve the use of the House till the Year comes about, and in that time if God spare my life endeavor to site a New One." The date, then, was probably about 1750, and may be deemed more certain from the fact that he married shortly after the letter quoted was written. The searching of some old deeds has recently brought to light one or two interesting facts relating to the stream running by the Thacher homestead and now called Thacher's Brook. In olden times it was evidently called Wolf-bridge Run, frequent mention of that run being found in transfers of land in the vicinity, and in one place reference is made to a sawmill upon it. There are indications of a mill to be found on the brook near the road bridge over it, where a fence now runs down into the water, but no mention of any owner has as yet been found.

tacles upon the upturned faces as she stood in the little room and talked to her scholars, are among cherished memories of childhood, not only in the old parish itself, but far outside its limits. Mrs. Thacher outlived her husband for twenty years, and for a considerable portion of the time she remained at the old home. She finally removed to the village, where she lived with her two daughters, at whose house she died June 8, 1883, at the age of eighty-seven.

PETER THACHER, eldest son of Deacon Peter and Saloma Thacher, was born July 20, 1812, and was the only son by the first wife. He was the seventh in direct descent from Thomas Thacher, who was the first minister of the Old South Church in Boston, and was the eighth of the name Peter, in different generations, known to the family. His education was limited, for his schooldays ended in 1828, when he was sixteen. The two previous years he had spent at the academies of Wrentham and Amherst, and the following year he was a worker on his father's farm. In 1830 he left home determined to achieve fortune for himself. He went to Taunton, where his first engagement was to a house carpenter for a year, "for forty dollars and board," and this proved to be the foundation of after success. He remained in Taunton two years. In 1834 he found employment with the Boston & Providence Railroad Company as a mechanic. By his ability he won the confidence of the company, and he was promoted to the responsible position of superintendent of construction, a position which he filled in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.

For the next thirteen years — from 1836 to 1849 — three years excepted he was engaged as a contractor in the building and as a superintendent in the putting into operation of some thirteen different railroads, and always with success. The Stonington, the Norwich and Worcester, the Taunton and New Bedford, the Vermont Central, and the Hudson River railroads are among the number. During the three years 1843–44–45, he was occupied in the construction of Forts Warren and Independence in Boston Harbor. Mr. Wright, then superintendent of engineers at Fort Warren, said of him at that time: "He possesses a thorough acquaintance with his business, and combines great intelligence with an uncommon degree of faithfulness in the discharge of duty. I feel assured that whoever is so fortunate as to command his services will esteem him a great acquisition."

In 1850 Mr. Thacher gained control of the Howe patent bridge. He associated himself with two other gentlemen under the firm name of Thacher, Burt & Co., and soon after this removed to Cleveland, Ohio. He became one of the leading bridge-builders in the West and constructed bridges on most of the original railroads in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky. In 1862 he rebuilt that bridge over the Cumberland River at Nashville, Tenn., which was destroyed early in the war. It was his firm which erected the Union elevator in Cleveland with such marked success. In 1865 he withdrew

from the firm. Later he became engaged in other enterprises, and in these success always attended him.

Mr. Thacher was a man who never sought preferment, but he held various public offices of importance and trust in the city of his adoption and he was also an officer in several literary and historical associations there and elsewhere. He always took an active interest "in public institutions, churches, schools, and charitable associations, his purse and influence being always at command to advance the cause of education and benevolence." He was a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity of Cleveland, holding the highest honors of the craft in Lodge, Chapter, Council, and Commandery. He was one of the organizers of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in Cleveland, which is a highly prosperous and respected body. For the eighteen years previous to his death he was treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars of Ohio, and as a mark of respect for him his name was given to a Chapter and Lodge in Cuyahoga County in that state. He died at Cleveland, February 12, 1880, and was buried in that city with the impressive ceremonies of the Masonic fraternity. "At his decease each Masonic body with which he had been connected adopted resolutions testifying to his faithfulness to the institutions, and their deep sorrow at the demise of one who could truly be called an *honest man*."

May 6, 1849, Mr. Thacher married Sarah Adams Estabrook, of West Cambridge, now Arlington, Mass. They had three children: Annie, who died at an early age; John, the younger son, who resides in Cleveland; and Peter. He became blind when about fourteen years of age, and now with his mother resides near Sanford, Fla. [He died there during the winter of 1890–91.]

WILLIAM T. THACHER was the youngest son of Deacon Thacher and was born in this town April 26, 1830. He attended the public schools here and finished his education at Wrentham Academy. He was among the first to be attacked by the gold fever, and in '49, when but nineteen years old, he went around the Horn to California and remained there six years. Soon after his return home he married Anna, the daughter of Rev. James O. Barney, so long the pastor of the Congregational Church at Seekonk. He went to Hyde Park to reside and was one of the pioneers in the settlement of that pretty suburb of Boston. He was a member of the large real estate and brokerage firm of Blake, Bradbury & Thacher there. He soon acquired a handsome competency and made for himself a beautiful home, where his many friends always found a hospitable welcome. Subsequently reverses came upon him and he lost his property.

He entered the army in the Civil War and during his service was wounded. The last four years of his life he resided in Boston, where he had organized and built up an extensive business. "Force," says one, "was the key-note of his character. Nothing could daunt him, no reverses could dishearten.

In youth he was of a roving disposition, and always a man of resolute will and restless energy." This force and independence of character — legitimate inheritances — developed themselves at a very early age. When only six years old he went one day with his father to Providence and there became lost. The father and hired man, each supposing him to be with the other, drove home. The father at once started back to the city to search for him and have him "cried" by the town crier. His efforts were unsuccessful, and he was finally obliged to turn homeward again without finding his son, but he was met on the way by the man with the joyful intelligence that the boy had reached home safely. The little fellow, on finding himself lost, still "kept his head," as the common phrase expresses it, and tried to find his father. As he stated it himself, he "inquired for Deacon Thacher, and nobody did n't know Deacon Thacher." Not discouraged or frightened he then inquired the way to the railroad station, knowing that the railway passed near his house, "and trudged along manfully, till he reached home." Not many boys at that age could have shown such good sense or have had the courage to take a walk of eleven miles at nightfall.

Mr. Thacher's last illness was one of great length and characterized by intense suffering, which he bore with extreme patience and cheerfulness. He had in his later years become so strong an advocate of temperance that he could hardly be persuaded to take the necessary stimulants during this long sickness. He died in Boston, July 15, 1884, leaving his wife and one son to survive him. At his special request he was buried by the side of his mother in the family lot in the Old Kirk Yard here.

JOHN THACHER, the oldest son by his father's second wife, was born November 4, 1828. After the common-school course in town he attended the famous Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass. After completing his studies there he taught school for some time, but finally took up the occupation his father and grandfather had followed, and became a farmer on the same old homestead place, where he has always resided. He has been tax collector for the town for many years, is treasurer of the Second Congregational Parish and of the Agricultural Association. Careful and correct in all financial matters, he fills these positions well. His long continuance in offices of this kind is the best proof of his strict honesty, and this has been a striking family trait for many generations. He is not a stern man, like his father, though he is none the less a man of good judgment, able to form correct opinions and to express them clearly and decidedly but without severity; and he is none the less a just man and perfectly honorable in all his dealings. He is altogether an unassuming man, but equally kind-hearted and considerate. He is continually doing thoughtful deeds in a kindly, quiet way, which the recipients remember pleasantly and gratefully. Whatever work falls to his lot to do is well done. He leaves no loosened ends for

others to pick up and finish. He fills an important place in his community and the town, the place of a faithful, useful man and citizen.

In 1876 Mr. Thacher married Ida Bullock, of Smithfield, Penn. She is a descendant of the family of that name in Rehoboth. They have two children: John Judson and Carroll Clark Thacher. [Mrs. Thacher died December 21, 1893.]

TIFFANY.

Three brothers of this name came to this country from England at a very early period, and five generations of the family have resided in this town. The first to come here was James, who settled on what is still known as the "Tiffany farm." There have been three houses built on this place and occupied by the family. The original one was on a little knoll to the northeast of the site of the last one; the second occupied a position to the south of this; the third and last one was burned in 1875 and had stood a hundred years. Those who lived at the old homestead were, after James, Ebenezer, his son; Joseph, his grandson; and Joseph Albert, his great-grandson. A brother of the first Joseph, Comfort by name, went from here to Killingly, Conn., and engaged in the business of manufacturing cotton there. His son, Charles L. Tiffany, is the founder of the great house of Tiffany & Co., which, besides its magnificent establishment in New York, has others in London, Paris, Geneva, and elsewhere, and is probably the largest house of its kind in the world. Louis C. Tiffany, of New York, the artist of high rank and extended reputation, is the son of Mr. Charles Tiffany.

There was a Comfort Tiffany, second, a nephew of the first, who was born here, and though he early removed from town he was during his entire life a frequent visitor to his native place. He had two sons, O. H. and C. C. Tiffany, who became clergymen of repute, one in the Methodist, the other in the Episcopal Church. These brothers were at one time settled in the city of New York over churches whose yards joined. Many of the members of the Tiffany family are buried in the little cemetery not far from the old home, the burial place lying just beyond Dodgeville, as one journeys towards Hebronville.

Joseph Albert Tiffany, above mentioned, married Eunice Capron Bradfield, of Smithfield. Her father was a privateersman and was at one time taken prisoner. He had his initials pricked on his arm while on board the "old Jersey prison-ship." Mr. Tiffany had seven children: Julia A., Mrs. George W. Bliss, of Rehoboth; Charlotte M., Mrs. Lewis L. Read, of this town; Ebenezer C., long a resident of this town and vicinity, and now located at San Mateo, Fla.; J. Osmond; William H., who married Lydia, oldest daughter of Zenas B. Carpenter, of this town, and who resides here; Frances P., who married Erastus Jacobs, of Dudley, and now resides in Providence; and Laura B. Tiffany. [Mr. Ebenezer Tiffany died in Boston recently.]

JOSEPH OSMOND TIFFANY was born at the old homestead (as were all his family) on January 23, 1835. After going to the public, then called the district, schools of his vicinity he attended the Attleborough Academy, then under the charge of Mr. James H. Bailey. He was there prepared for college, and he entered Amherst, graduating in the class of 1859. After his return home he soon commenced teaching. His first school was in Mansfield, where he remained one winter. Subsequently he taught at East Attleborough in the academy, where he had previously received instruction. At that time the school properly embraced two districts, the pupils from which had free attendance, but those who came from other parts of the town or from out of town paid for their tuition. Mr. Tiffany's next position was as a teacher in the grammar school at North Attleborough, where he had one hundred and thirty-nine scholars and but one assistant. Happily school committees have learned that the mental and physical organization of school teachers is much like that of ordinary people and has its limit of endurance, and that arrangements like the one in question are unprofitable, because a teacher can do justice neither to his pupils nor to himself if he has charge of so large a number. Before he gave up his vocation of teaching permanently Mr. Tiffany saw many great strides taken here in town in the way of improvements upon the old system under which he began. Following his experience at North Attleborough he taught for a year at the academy in Richmond, Maine. Then he returned home and entered business. This was not particularly agreeable to him nor did it prove especially profitable, so it was relinquished after a few years.

In 1872 he became principal of the East High School and retained the position for twelve years, when he resigned it. This action was greatly to the regret of his pupils and to that of the community at large. Mr. Tiffany is a man well fitted by character and acquirements for the office of an instructor. Versed in both classical and general lore, he is capable of giving instruction in the highest branches. He has the faculty, which is by no means too common, of imparting knowledge intelligently, in clear, concise terms, and he has also that important requisite — a taste for such work. These characteristics made him a successful teacher. He had the right idea of placing pupils upon their honor and of making them do all the work possible as the only means of real development, though he never withheld needed assistance. An experience related by one of his High School graduates here will illustrate his method. A task was set to a certain class during its graduating year, which seemed to the members to present unusual difficulties. However, they went to work, studied hard, and tried to do their best; but they had many discouragements, and, what was hardest of all, they felt uncertain as to whether they were doing well in the eyes of their teacher. Finally the obstacles were overcome and the task completed. Then the teacher warmly commended their efforts, praised the manner in

which they had worked and the quality of the work they had accomplished, told them he had been watching their progress with pleasure and satisfaction, and gave them credit for a greater degree of success than he had expected. The surprise and pleasure thus given to the class were sufficient to "more than make up for all the trials, and disappointments, and hard work." Another scholar said: "Mr. Tiffany rarely praised us, but when he did we felt we deserved it, and were more than compensated for all the discouragements and criticisms that had come to us before."

While a student himself Mr. Tiffany was always particularly interested in astronomy, chemistry, and studies of a similar nature, and has during his life kept up a special interest in them. Some time since he purchased a six-inch telescope, and this has given his pupils great pleasure and been profitable to them as well. He has also at times given lectures, using his telescope in the way of illustration. Since resigning his position as principal of the High School in the spring of 1884, he has not been engaged in any special occupation. On December 5, 1865, he married Caroline French, of this town. They have no children. [He is at present superintendent of schools in Attleborough.]

WALES.

General Nathaniel Wales, of England, was the paternal ancestor of this family. His son Nathaniel came to this country in 1635 with Richard Mather. The progenitor on the maternal side was Thomas Thacher, rector of St. Edmund's Church in Salisbury, England, who also emigrated in 1635 and later became pastor of the Old South Church in Boston. Nathaniel Wales died in Boston, May 20, 1665. He had a son Nathaniel, who was a general. Rev. Atherton Wales was the son of General Nathaniel, and his fifteenth child. He was born March 8, 1704. He graduated at Harvard College in 1726 and became pastor of the Second Church at Marshfield. He died in 1795. He was married three times: first, to Mary, daughter of Rev. Samuel Niles; and, second, to Mary, daughter of Rev. Peter Thacher, of Milton, son of the pastor of the Old South Church. (The name of the third wife is unknown to the author.) General Atherton Wales was their son.

Deacon Atherton Wales was the son of General Atherton and was born in Portsmouth, R. I., May 24, 1806. His mother died when he was but seven years old, and his father when he was but fourteen. When he was sixteen he left home and bound himself as an apprentice to Mr. James Shaw, of Newport, R. I., to learn blacksmithing. He served his time for three years, until he was twenty-one, and then went to Pawtucket, then in Massachusetts, where he worked a year for William Fisher at horseshoeing. In 1828 he removed to this town. He was then twenty-two years of age.

In 1830 he married Louisa R. Tyler, a daughter of Dr. Abijah W. Tyler,

by whom he had four sons and two daughters. One child was unnamed; the others were: Elizabeth Francis, deceased; Henry Atherton; Abijah Tyler; Louisa Tyler, Mrs. Thomas S. Nye, deceased; and Charles Nelson, deceased. Subsequently he was married three times, but never had other children.

In 1832 he became a member of the Second Congregational Church and was chosen one of its deacons November 3, 1848. During the year 1836–37 Mr. Wales resided in Providence, R. I., for about eight months. With that exception he has lived in this town since he first settled here. He died at his home on County Street, where he had resided for forty-seven years, on August 2, 1888.

One writing at the time of his death says: "For forty years connected with the second Congregational church as one of its Deacons, no one was better known in all its services; and though some time has transpired since he has been missed from its active duties, since his voice has been heard in prayer or praise, many have recalled the force of his words and that he was ever steadfast in all times of trial in his duty to its best interests. Though he might not rashly put out his hand and 'touch the Ark' he walked beside it in his own integrity of purpose, firm and undaunted. He was well versed in the Scriptures which gave him great power as an instructor in the Sabbath-school, where he had a large class for successive years. He was a man of marked individuality of character, of methodical habits in his home and business, a kind husband and good father. He was not afraid to stand alone when in the right, as was evinced by his being one of six who cast the first Abolition votes in this town." He attended to all the obligations of life with fidelity. He was honest and upright in all things. He was decided and firm, but tolerant; outspoken, but not dictatorial. For more than a generation he performed the duties of his deacon's office. His judgment in church affairs was deemed wise and his advice prudent to follow. He was often the peculiar reliance of both pastors and officers of the church; as it has been expressed, "Often during times of trouble, Deacon Wales has been the rudder and dependence."

"By reason of strength" he attained to and passed the period of fourscore years. He lived long, he labored hard, but ever with contentment of spirit. He ended his active life in the occupation with which he began it, satisfied with the moderate compensations of his hard, but honest daily toil. He never desired to change or enlarge the sphere in which he was placed, but he desired to do his duty "in the fear of God." In striving to gain the approval of his Maker, he gained what all desire, the approval of his fellowmen. His example is worthy of imitation, and his death was the peaceful termination of a useful life.

HENRY A. WALES was born in this town, at the Falls, April 16, 1832. When the father first came to town, he worked at his trade in a shop at "Blackintonville," later going to the Falls, where several of his children

were born. After residing there for some years, he removed to Providence, where he remained for some months, and then returned permanently to this town. With the exception of this short period during his very early childhood, and of about a year's time during 1850–51, when he was again in Providence learning the watchmaker's trade, Henry lived here up to the time he was twenty-seven years old. He received the preparatory education necessary to fit him for college in the academies of the town, but his health did not permit him to enter upon such a course of study. In 1852 he entered the Normal School at Bridgewater, but again his health interfered with his wishes, and he was obliged to leave before completing the prescribed course. He was a boy and youth of unusual talent in many directions. He was clever at his books and a remarkably good reader and speaker, in every way adapted to thoroughly appreciate and enjoy the pleasures and benefits to be derived from an extended course of study.

At the age of twenty-two he commenced teaching and has continued that vocation in various departments ever since. He was principal of the Blackstone schools in 1859 and of those in Central Falls in 1863. Having decided to enter the ministry, he began about that time to make special preparations for the work and in 1865 entered "the old East Windsor Hill Theological Seminary at Hartford, Conn.," and in the autumn of the following year, 1866, "was ordained at and installed over the Elmwood Congregational Church, (now Providence.)" He remained there five years and then resigned. In 1868 he was professor of elocution in the well-known Mowry and Goff School in Providence. In 1871 he accepted the pastorate of the Congregational Church in Stonington, Conn., where he continued three years, resigning in 1874. During the same year he was settled over the Congregational Church at Leominster, Mass., where he also continued three years, and then withdrew from the pastorate because of some changes in his belief with regard to the orthodox creed.

During 1877 he removed to Cambridge and lived there for a year without any pastoral charge, and in 1878 he commenced to preach for the Universalist Society in Biddeford, Me. In 1879 he was there elected a member of the State Legislature. Having still further modified or changed some of his religious views, he began in 1880 to preach in Biddeford as an Independent preacher. This course he pursued for four years, and then went to Big Rapids, Mich., where he became preacher to the Unitarian Society in that place. Still again ill health compelled a relinquishment of work in which he was engaged, and in 1888 he resigned this charge, thus far his last ministerial one. Since that time he has been engaged in literary work.

Since he was a young man Mr. Wales has been more or less occupied with literary, journalistic, and editorial work of various kinds. He was at one time professor of belles-lettres in Cincinnati, Ohio, while holding a position in D. Appleton & Co.'s office there, and during that time he edited Appleton's

"Cyclopedia of Biography." He was a special writer for the Big Rapids Daily Pioneer while he resided in that city, and now, having returned to his former place of residence in Maine, he is special writer for the Biddeford Daily Journal. This brief statement of facts shows that his life has been one of frequent changes. Many of them were no doubt forced upon him by the state of his health, which often obliged him to give up some interesting and absorbing work or relinquish some cherished purpose. The facts show that he yielded to these physical mandates only so far as urgent necessity compelled him to do, by making some alteration in his manner of work, but he never allowed himself to be conquered for any length of time by physical ills, no matter how severe. The facts show too that the promise of his youth has been in great measure fulfilled, and that his talents, which are of "no mean order," have been recognized, for they have caused him to be placed in honorable positions. Brought up, as so many New England boys of his day were, in the strictest requirements of a rigid orthodoxy, he, like many others who chafed under the same exacting rule, in later years has radically changed his views upon various points, accepting doctrines broader and freer than any the fathers knew; and, unlike many, he has not been afraid to frankly acknowledge these changes of belief, but has ever had the courage of his opinions.

[In 1857 Mr. Wales was married in Milford, Mass., to Miss Harriet Louisa Williams, of this town. They have had four children: Henry A., born in 1858, and died at the age of four and a half years; Genevieve, born in 1860, married in 1881 to Erwin S. Gowen, of Biddeford, Maine, and has two sons; Harry B., born in 1865, married in 1892 to Miss Henrietta Pitt, of Muskegon, Mich.; and Jessie Atherton, born in 1867, married in 1887 to Charles Myron Wiseman, of Big Rapids, and has one daughter, born in 1891.

In adding to a sketch previously prepared of Mr. Wales it is very pleasant to record the fact that he has accepted the invitation of the committee in charge to be the orator of the Bi-Centennial celebration of October, 1894, both because he is a native of the town and because he is well fitted to fulfil the duties of the position.]

ABIJAH T. WALES, the next younger son of Deacon Wales, was born at the Falls June 21, 1833. He had no advantages in the way of a school education beyond those afforded by the town, and of those he could avail himself only until he was fourteen years of age, at which time he entered his father's shop to learn the trade of a blacksmith, the trade which he made his business and followed for about thirty years. All that he has attained beyond the scanty book learning the few short years of his school life afforded has been the result of his own exertions and gained by intelligent reading, by contact with men, and by participation in public affairs. He evinced a genuine interest in public and political affairs before he reached the age of eighteen, "and by ardently urging the claims and arguments of the Anti Slavery and Free Soil parties during the years between 1850 and 1860 he was regarded as a radical by both old parties, and on the birth of the Republican Party became one of the foremost of its supporters in the town." Since that early period he has frequently been called upon to take prominent places

for his party in its conduct of local political concerns. At the age of twenty-three he "was elected by the republicans of Attleboro' to represent them in the State convention at Worcester," and that year, 1856, he cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont.

He enlisted on August 9, 1862, as a private in Company H, Fortieth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, declining to accept a commission which was proffered him. He was immediately detailed on recruiting service by Adjutant-General Schouler, his duty being to raise recruits in this town and vicinity. Having performed this service according to orders, he joined his regiment in Virginia about the middle of November following. On the twenty-fourth of December, the same year, at the request of Governor Andrew he was transferred by special order of the War Department to the Second Massachusetts Cavalry. He served in that regiment until his term expired by reason of a general order of the War Department, which discharged at a certain time all soldiers who enlisted previous to October 1, 1862. The last year of his service in the army he was farrier in charge at Cavalry Reserve Brigade Headquarters in the cavalry corps of Sheridan's command in the Shenandoah Valley. He was discharged from this position ta Clouds Mills, Va., June 22, 1865, and returned home.

Within three months of that time he decided to locate in Middleborough, this State, and carry on his farmer business there. He made the necessary preparations and removed with his family to that place in September, 1865. He not only took up his former occupation, but resumed his former interest in political and general matters as well, and while a resident of Middleborough he was actively engaged in its public affairs. He organized the Grand Army post in that town, the eighth organized in the State. He was elected its first commander and subsequently reëlected during three successive years.

In September, 1872, Mr. Wales returned to this town, conducting his business at his father's old shop on County Street in the East village and residing with him in the old home. This he continued to do for sixteen years, caring for his father during a long period of constantly increasing infirmity of both body and mind. He still resides there, but no longer conducts the business. In 1873 he was elected to the board of selectmen, assessors, and overseers of the poor, and in 1874 was chosen commander of William A. Streeter Post. He very soon again became prominent in the political concerns of the town, and held among other positions that of chairman of the Republican Town Committee. He was "elected from the 1st Bristol Representative Dist, as a member of the State Legislature in 1878."

In 1881 he was appointed postmaster at Attleborough. He took charge of the office on June 7 of that year, and after the death of President Garfield he was recommissioned by President Arthur. This commission was dated for four years from October 14, 1881, but Mr. Wales continued to hold the office for some time after its expiration. He gave possession to his

successor, appointed by President Cleveland on June 18, 1886. This appointment was the natural consequence of a change in the party in power and was not hastened by any expressions of dissatisfaction on the part of Mr. Wales' political opponents in town. He performed the duties of postmaster to the satisfaction of all citizens generally. In 1886 he was one of the town assessors and in 1887 again a representative to the State Legislature. [He was "re-elected in 1889 and 1890; during each of these years serving on the Finance Committee of the House, and the latter year as Chairman of that committee."]

"During his service in the legislature he became somewhat conspicuous by his determined efforts for the division of the town." He deemed that the true welfare of the two sections would be augmented and their best interests promoted by a separation, and he therefore advocated that course. He has been active in public life for many years and has served well in those positions of responsibility which he has been called upon to occupy by his townsmen and others. He is a man who forms positive opinions upon all points, and he expresses the same decidedly and publicly if occasion demands. In these respects he is like many who are by nature inclined to be strongly partisan and somewhat radical in their beliefs, but unlike many he recognizes the fact that others possess the same rights of opinion he claims for himself, and does not condemn as totally wrong those who differ with him. He has proved himself worthy of high positions, and his many friends can but wish him a long continuance in an honorable public career and act their part toward giving him the due reward of still higher degrees of success.

Mr. Wales early evinced a talent for reading and speaking and from the time of his youth up has continued to exercise that talent in a more or less public way. He and his brother both possessed considerable dramatic ability, and pleasant occasions, now a quarter of a century gone, of a social or literary nature, when this was exhibited, will be recalled by many in town and elsewhere at this day. He has delivered one of the Memorial Day orations at Attleborough and similar addresses in other places. While a resident of Middleborough, in 1869, upon the occurrence of the two hundredth anniversary of its incorporation as a town, at the public banquet of the celebration he was called upon to respond to the toast of the "Grand Army," especially a compliment as he was not a soldier of the town.

[In November, 1856, Mr. Wales married Josephine, daughter of Edward Richards, of this town. They had two sons, both resident here. Edward Atherton was born in September, 1857, married in Ashfield, this State, in October, 1890, to Miss Eliza Howes, of that place, and has two children, a boy and a girl; Louis was born in April, 1859, and was married in December, 1882, to Mrs. Alice Shepard, of Wrentham, formerly Alice Hodges, of that town. Mrs. Wales died in 1866. In December, 1871, Mr. Wales married Alice, a daughter of Palemon Capron Wilmarth, of this town. In 1890 he "was appointed by the U. S. Census Commissioner as Special Agent to collect the Statistics of Manufacture in this town and in five towns

of Plymouth County," and in 1891 he was appointed "General Dep. Coll. U. S. Internal Revenue," and "assigned to duty under the Revenue Agent for New England States." He has served in that position up to the present time (1894).

WHITING.

The records trace this family back to 1333, when one "William Whytyng," of Boston, England, "was taxed as a citizen." They show one John Whiting to have been mayor of that borough in 1600 and again in 1608, and vice-admiral of Lincolnshire in 1602. Samuel, the son of this John, was at first a clergyman of the Established Church, but later became a nonconformist. This being reported to his Bishop and complained of, he decided it would be best for him to come to this country. He emigrated in 1636 and settled in Lynn, this State. About the same time one Nathaniel Whiting came from Boxford, Suffolk County, England, and settled in Dedham. These two were doubtless relatives, and from them most of the families of their name are descended.

Nathaniel was in 1635 one of the sixty-eight proprietors of Contentment, afterwards Dedham. In 1641 he bought a watermill "and all lands, privileges, and appurtenances thereto belonging." For over two hundred years there have been saw and grist mills on this site owned and operated by Whitings. Many of the family were agriculturists, and for generations some of the best lands in Dedham have been in their possession. Various members of the family have held public office in that town and always for many successive years. Nathaniel the first, in 1643, married Hannah Dwight, of that place. Her family was then as now of much repute. The old church records of Dedham make special mention of a Captain Timothy Dwight as "a promoter of the true interests of the church and town." His son Timothy was for many years the honored president of Yale College, and another Timothy Dwight, his great-grandson, holds the same high office in Yale University and is loved and honored as his grandfather was before him.

A son of Nathaniel and Hannah Dwight Whiting was Samuel, who married and lived in Dedham. His oldest son was David, who also married there, but soon after, in 1733 or 1734, came to this town. He purchased a farm with considerable woodland, which remained until recently in the possession of the family. David the first, of this town, married Mary Fuller. Their second son, named David, was born here February 22, 1735. He married Hannah, daughter of Moses and Mary Wallcott, of this town, and they had seven children. Of these Lemuel was fifth child and fourth son. He was born December 12, 1775. On July 2, 1811, he married Nancy, the daughter of Oliver and Polly Daggett Blackinton. Captain Lemuel Whiting "was a farmer, and an industrious, hard-working man." He paid particular attention to his cattle and took great pride in their fine appearance and superior qualities. He kept quite a number of oxen for the outside work in which he engaged, that of moving buildings. He died September 30, 1823. His

wife survived him nearly half a century and died in October, 1868. They had four children, two sons and two daughters, of whom the subject of the following sketch is the only survivor.

WILLIAM DEAN WHITING was born December 23, 1815. He was the third child, but oldest son, in his family. His father died when he was not quite eight years old, and the mother was left with the entire charge of her family of small children and with very limited means. Like many a New England mother in similar circumstances, she accepted the situation bravely and succeeded in bringing them up well. William was obliged to begin supporting himself at a very early age, and when only eight years old he worked for his uncle, Artemas Stanley. For his board he did the numberless "chores" Yankee boys on farms were then expected to do. These tasks were by no means small or easy, and boys were far more useful than they had the credit of being. He was with his uncle for a year, then he worked for a Mr. Whittemore, a farmer, for two years in the same way. Then he went home and for two years more worked by the day when he could find work to do, his wages being twenty-five cents a day. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed to Draper & Tifft "to learn their trade, and for six years he steadily applied himself to thoroughly master it. Mr. Tifft, his uncle by marriage, pleased with his attention to their interests, took especial pains with him, and he became very proficient in all departments." Having learned his trade properly, the firm gave him the position of journeyman. At the end of a year "dull times came on, and work was scarce," so he sought employment elsewhere and worked for R. & W. Robinson for a while and later for Draper & Blackinton, for the former firm "chasing gilt buttons" and for the latter "chasing gilt jewelry."

He had already at the age of twenty-two gained "such a reputation for skill, steadiness, and reliability," that Mr. H. M. Richards offered him the position of foreman in his shop, the first where jewelry was manufactured in East Attleborough. Soon after this Mr. Richards took his business to Philadelphia, and Mr. Whiting took charge of removing the machinery and setting it up in its new location and remained there as superintendent. He retained this position two years with Mr. Richards and his successor, Mr. Garrett, and then he began business in a small way on his own account, making chiefly hearts and crosses. This was a time of extreme financial depression, little work was done, and that little was poorly paid, so after a few months of business for himself Mr. Whiting decided to go to St. Louis and try to improve his fortunes in the West. Just at this juncture, however, he received a proposition from an old acquaintance, Albert C. Tifft, to return to this town and enter into partnership with him in the manufacture of jewelry, Mr. John Tifft, of Draper & Tifft, having promised to become the financial security of the proposed firm.

So far Mr. Whiting had not been successful in the mere making of money,

"but the value of faithful working and systematic economy had been so strongly impressed upon his nature as to affect his whole subsequent life." He relinquished his Western plan "after careful thought and mature deliberation" and accepted Mr. Tifft's proposition, and this was without doubt the turning-point in his life. In 1840, and in this way, the famous firm of Tifft & Whiting was formed, with these two ambitious and "honest young men" as partners. They had "a joint cash capital of five hundred dollars," a small foundation, but by diligence, caution, and good management they built upon it a noble structure of well-secured success. At the very beginning only two workmen were employed, but this number was soon increased, and Mr. Whiting superintended the work in the shop. At first Mr. John Tifft sold the firm's goods, but later Mr. A. C. Tifft undertook the charge of the sales in New York, and Mr. Whiting assumed those in New England. They conducted their business strictly on cash principles and would not run in debt. They received financial aid from Mr. Tifft only once. Upon one occasion he had a note for one hundred and fifty dollars discounted at the Wrentham bank, and the firm promptly paid it when it fell due. The business increased rapidly, and a new building was needed, and before long another and a larger one. This last one was a portion of the Whiting Manufacturing Company's building, the erection of which was personally superintended by Mr. Whiting himself. It is on the site of the old Beaver Dam cotton mill, which site with its privilege this firm had purchased.

The firm continued in its new building unchanged, but with constantly increasing business until January 1, 1853, when Mr. Tifft, "satisfied with the fortune he had amassed," retired, and Mr. Whiting bought his interest. He continued in his own name, and later as W. D. Whiting & Co., with unabated success, and the final result was the establishment of the Whiting Manufacturing Company, "one of the largest in the country," and jewelry was relinquished, silver becoming its only article of production. In 1875 the company's works were burned and it was decided to remove the manufactory to New York City. Mr. Whiting took up his residence there for a time in order to attend personally to the resetting of the machinery in the new shop and to superintend its operation. He remained five years and then returned to North Attleborough.

With this exception "Mr. Whiting has all his life resided in his native town, and, known of all men, is universally esteemed for his sterling worth, honesty of dealing, integrity, modesty, and unostentation." He began at the bottom, "he has stood on every round of Fortune's ladder, and in his old age he can enjoy the wealth he has accumulated, and looking back, he can say with pride that not one single dollar has been acquired unjustly. He is one of the best types of a self-made man; has started many 'boys' on the same road he has trod, first, by taking them as apprentices; secondly, by his kind and fatherly advice giving them more valuable aid than that of money;

and today many of them hold a loyal friendship for the kind old friend whom they reverence almost as a father. His success is the result of steady industry, careful economy, business thrift and enterprise reaching over a long period of years, coupled with a determination to give honest value to whatever he made. He has never had time to meddle either with politics or speculation, and has steadily refused all public positions. He is a Republican by political belief."

December 17, 1839, he was married to Lucy Damon, daughter of Pitt and Lucy Damon Butterfield, of Dedham. They have had four children: William Osborne, the oldest, was drowned at four years of age. The remaining three are Frank Mortimer, Josephine S., and Florence R. Whiting.[1]

FRANK M. WHITING was born April 21, 1849. He was educated at the Norwich Military University, in Northfield, Vt., where he graduated in 1868. On returning home he worked in his father's manufactory for about a year and then became an assistant in the office, first here, and later in New York at the office there. Still later he became traveling salesman for the then firm and acted in that capacity for a number of years. In 1878 he and two other gentlemen formed a copartnership as jewelry manufacturers in this town and continued together for two years. At the end of that time Mr. Whiting the elder bought the interests of Messrs. Holbrook and Abbee, the son's partners, and formed a new firm under the name it bears at present, Frank M. Whiting & Co. Notwithstanding his advanced age he is still actively engaged in the concerns of this firm, for he superintends its manufactory while Mr. Frank Whiting attends to the interests of the business in traveling and selling the goods.

June 21, 1881, Mr. Frank Whiting was married to Florence L., a daughter of Edwin and Dorcas Doane Hancock, of Wrentham. They have one daughter, Marion D. Whiting. Their residence is with Mr. William D. Whiting in the house he has occupied for many years.[2]

WHITNEY.

FELIX G. WHITNEY, one of the town's prominent citizens and one closely identified with the growth and prosperity of North Attleborough, was born in that village December 9, 1818. His parents were then residing in what is called the "Guild house," which now stands on the corner of High and Washington streets. The family numbered six children. The sons were James O., who became a physician and practises his profession in Pawtucket; George B., who died in 1857; and Felix G. The daughters were Harriet, who married Otis Stanley; Maria, who married Elijah Carter, of Rock

[1] Mr. Whiting died November 25, 1891, and Mrs. Whiting died very suddenly January 10, 1894.
[2] Mr. Frank M. Whiting died suddenly on May 28, 1892.

Island, Ill.; and Emily, who was the first wife of Oliver Stanley. Of these only Mrs. Carter survives.

Felix attended the public schools of his native village and subsequently the then famous Day's Academy at Wrentham. His school course was, however, short, for when he was only about fifteen he left home and entered a wholesale grocery store on Bromfield Street, Boston, with the intention of in time pursuing that business. He progressed rapidly in mastering its details, but his career in that direction ended suddenly and rather peculiarly. He had a friend who was about to sail on a long voyage and he went one evening to the wharf "to see him off." This occasioned a somewhat tardy return to his home, which, according to the then prevailing custom, was in his employer's house. To be out late was a grave offence in the eyes of the old gentleman and he therefore, refusing to listen to any reasonable explanations, recommended that his clerk should report himself to his parents. The "spirited apprentice," however, took the liberty of thinking differently upon this matter and then and there came to his own decision. He immediately put his trunk upon a wheelbarrow and started with it for the wharf and thence "shipped before the mast."

"For ten years Mr. Whitney followed the sea. He went on several long voyages and experienced his share of the vicissitudes of a sailor's life. On one hapless Wednesday his ship was burned to the water's edge, and he was picked up next day by a vessel which was itself wrecked the following Saturday. Mr. Whitney in his second shipwreck made safe landing on an island, and the first vessel that touched refused him passage, because his story of two shipwrecks in four days was too improbable even for ears accustomed to the varied fact and fiction of the sea. He succeeded better the next time, and after a rough passage, during which the ship came near going ashore on Cape Hatteras, he arrived safely in Boston." A number of his voyages were made in company with Captain Abraham Hayward, father of the late Charles E. Hayward, of this town. This, his second attempted career, ended as unexpectedly as the first. He had shipped upon one occasion as first mate under a certain Captain Chace. The voyage was to be a long one, and while awaiting the summons of the captain, when the preparations should be completed, he came to his home in North Attleborough for a visit. Days passed on and the expected letter did not arrive. Finally it was ascertained that it had been detained for ten days in the East Attleborough postoffice, but meanwhile the ship had had to sail without him. This experience and the earnest entreaties of friends led him to decide to give up the life of a sailor.

Among his first enterprises in town was the opening of Orne Street, so named for his mother. This was the first street opened off North Attleborough's main thoroughfare — Washington Street — and his neighbors united in discouraging the project. He worked for a time as a carpenter in the

employ of his brother George and later in jewelry for H. M. Richards, and finally in 1849 he decided to venture in the second occupation for himself. He built his first shop on Orne Street, the building now occupied as a carriage shop by John Stanley & Son. His first associate was E. W. Davenport under the name of Whitney & Davenport. During the following eight years the firm and name underwent several changes, as partners entered or retired. It was Whitney, Davenport & Dunster; again Whitney, Davenport & Co.; and in 1857 became Whitney & Rice, which firm carried on its business in "The Company's shop." In 1871, on the withdrawal of Mr. Rice, the name became F. G. Whitney & Co. and remained unchanged for fifteen years. In 1870 this firm was burned out at the Ira Richards factory. Six years later, in 1876, Mr. Whitney built a large brick shop on Chestnut Street, and this in turn was burned in 1882. It was immediately rebuilt, and eight months after the fire occurred was occupied, and is the same building in which the firm is now established. In 1886 Mr. Whitney sold the business to his two sons, George B. and E. F. Whitney, who compose the firm and retain the old name unchanged. [1893. Not in existence.]

In 1848 he married Catherine J. Briggs, daughter of Rufus and sister of William Briggs, of Attleborough, and of Mrs. Walter Ballou, of North Attleborough. They had six sons, only two of whom, those above mentioned, lived to maturity.

The *Chronicle* in its obituary says: "In his business as jeweler, Mr. Whitney was distinguished for his advanced ideas in regard to methods and his ingenuity in designs. He was one of the exhibitors at the Paris Exposition, and opened an office in London soon after, keeping it open until about two years ago — 1885. — He crossed the ocean many times in the interests of his large export trade, and on his last visit in 1882, noted with interest the same London pier where he had tied his ship forty years before." He was deeply interested in the order of Odd Fellows, and was himself a model member of that organization. He was one of the first members of Aurora Lodge, and he took his three degrees in one night, just previous to that anticipated long voyage upon which he did not enter. He bore all the honors of the lodge, and held the office of district deputy for many years. He was one of the building committee of the present Odd Fellows Building, and he always took a generous part in sustaining the existence of the organization in town, through its days of adversity as well as those of its prosperity. He was at one time connected with Bristol Lodge of F. and A. M., but retired from it, because his deepest attachments were for the order of Odd Fellowship, and he preferred to belong to no other. He held many district offices, and served on many town committees. He was largely instrumental in starting the public library of his native village, and all progressive work found in him a liberal supporter. He was at one time a director of the North Attleborough National Bank and of the Attleborough Branch Railroad. In politics he was a Democrat, and to show of what stamp he was as man and politician it is only necessary to state the fact that many Republicans assisted to elect him as one of the representatives of the First Bristol District in 1874.

The sudden death of Mrs. Whitney in the summer of 1886 was a blow from which Mr. Whitney never wholly recovered, and he did not very long survive it. His death occurred November 17, 1887, after a long and painful illness. His funeral was conducted by the Rev. W. F. Potter, and he was buried with the honors and the impressive services of Odd Fellowship. No better delineation of his life and character can be given than that contained in the simple phrase of one who on his burial day said: "He goes to his rest as one that was faithful to the triple links of Friendship, Love, and Truth."

WILMARTH.

DANIEL WILMARTH was born December 7, 1799, on what is called "the Lincoln place" in Rehoboth. He came to this town when he was quite a young man. His great-grandfather's name was Jonathan, his grandfather's Moses. The family was numerous in Rehoboth and several of the name came from there to this town, the first as early as 1708. Previous to his settlement here Mr. Wilmarth was for several years in the employ of the American Screw Company. His first wife was Patta Claflin, the daughter of Noah Claflin, of this town. He was familiarly known to everybody as "Squire Claflin." He and his father before him were "farmers and bootmakers." They were descendants of John Antipas Claflin, the first of the name in town, who came as early as 1717 from Sudbury, Mass. Squire Claflin was an intelligent and well-read man. His judgment upon the affairs of men was excellent and he was highly respected by all in the community. Harvey Claflin, a much loved deacon in the Second Congregational Church for many years, was his son. Deacon Claflin was, like his father, much respected by everybody. He was one of the truest, most consistent Christian men the town has ever known. He was a farmer and for many years occupied the place now known as the "Wilcox place." He frequently and for long periods held important offices in both the church and the town and was wise and careful in the performance of all his duties. He was also one of the town's representatives in the Legislature. He finally removed to Cleveland, Ohio, where his two sons, Harvey and Henry, had been residing for some years, and he died there at the residence of the former.

Mr. Wilmarth after his marriage lived at the old Claflin homestead on the "east road" from East to North Attleborough, and it finally came into his possession and remained his home for very many years. He was a man of considerable independence of character. He thought much and formed decided and fixed opinions, but he was always courteous to others and tolerant of their views. His nature was of the most kindly; he was a good neighbor and a thoughtful friend and he was often made an adviser and confidant by those who were in perplexity or trouble. He was greatly interested in music and during many years rendered valuable assistance to the choir of the Second Church, not only with his voice but liberally with his purse as well. He finally sold his farm and removed to the village of East Attleborough, where he passed the remainder of his life. A number of years since he married Mrs. Susan Mann, widow of Howard Mann, of Wrentham.

His old age was a remarkably vigorous one, both physically and mentally, until the death of his only son occurred. From that time his strong hold upon life gradually weakened. It was his ever recurring and pathetically expressed wish that the son's life might have been spared and the father's taken. During the summer of 1886 he sustained a severe shock of paralysis. He rallied extraordinarily for so old a man and lived for a year; but he failed

continually if gradually and soon his friendly visits to his neighbors ceased, his pleasant voice was no longer heard, and his familiar form was missed from the village streets. He died July 27, 1887, having lived eighty-seven years, seven months, and twenty days.

WILLIAM DANIEL WILMARTH, the only son of Daniel and Patta Wilmarth, was born July 30, 1837. His boyhood and youth were spent at home and it was not until he was twenty-seven years of age that he entered upon a business life. He inherited from his father musical tastes and ability and during his entire life he devoted a great deal of time to their cultivation, and not only in himself but in others. He aimed to elevate the standard of music in his community, and many in it can doubtless attribute to his suggestions and example their first real enjoyment and appreciation of that art. When a boy of about seventeen Mr. Wilmarth commenced to play the organ in church, and he soon in addition took charge of the choir. For quite twenty years he had the entire charge of the music in the Second Church, and he spared neither time nor money to make this appropriate and worthy a church of its size and influence. How many difficulties he met and overcame and how much he really did will never probably be fully known, for Mr. Wilmarth never published his own deeds; he did not work for self-aggrandizement but for the love of music itself. Good church music had been the rule so long under his management that people had learned to expect it as a matter almost of course and did not realize the "eternal vigilance" required to produce it; but his task began to be better understood, and his generous measures appreciated in some degree as they deserved, when he relinquished his position and it fell to other hands to carry on the work.

On October 15, 1864, Mr. Wilmarth became associated as a business partner with Dr. J. R. Bronson, who had then recently purchased a coffin-trimming business in North Attleborough. This firm soon removed to a small shop near the site of the present one on County Street, East Attleborough. Four years later he bought the doctor's interest and continued alone until his death. Mr. Wilmarth became one of the most active of the men of the East village, after he took up his residence there, in all matters of public improvement. He was a prime mover and an energetic worker in obtaining the water works there. That improvement was greatly needed and has long ceased to be regarded as a luxury, either public or private. He was urgent in obtaining improvements in the fire department, in having the streets properly curbed and lighted, and in advancing all matters of public health and comfort. He was a trustee of the Richardson School Fund and liberal in all educational matters in the community.

He died March 6, 1881, his life cut off in its prime and just when many years of great usefulness were opening out before him. His death left a wide gap in the ranks of our useful citizens, which cannot soon be filled.

He was in truth and in earnest a public-spirited man. He was unusually modest and unassuming; he never wished public advancement or office for himself, but pushed others forward. He was a man of indomitable energy and determination, but in so quiet a way that those traits scarcely made themselves apparent. He had a sound, sagacious mind, was clear and judicious in his judgment, a man of scrupulous rectitude in his dealings, and he exercised a "powerful influence on the side of right and public good." In writing of him just after his death one said: "Mr. Wilmarth was a genuinely honest man. He did business on the square. He took no stock in the complaint that the times are such as to render it impossible for a man to do business honestly, and not bankrupt himself. As a business man he clung to the principles which build patiently, steadily, and surely. Among these principles was that which led him to cherish the welfare of others. He was generous to his employees. He was never spoken ill of by a man who had worked for him. To young men struggling to get on he always stood ready to lend a helping hand. 'I have lost my best friend,' said a member of a young firm to me the other day, 'from no man did we get so much encouragement and help.' Said another gentleman of large business experience, 'Mr. Wilmarth was one of the ablest business men with whom I was ever acquainted.' 'No man,' said still another, 'could die here who would be more missed.'" Among the resolutions passed after his death by the trustees of the Richardson School Fund was the following: —

Resolved, — That the community in which he lived has lost a neighbor just and conscientious in all his dealings with others — one who was active in promoting the interest and prosperity of this village, and especially interested in sustaining its various institutions; and thus we mourn the departure of an honorable and worthy citizen, one who will be long remembered in the business circles of this town."

Mr. Wilmarth merited such tributes as these, for he fulfilled well the high duties of true manhood and loyal citizenship.

On May 5, 1857, he married S. Josephine Mann, daughter of Howard and Susan Ide Mann, of Wrentham. She and several children survive him. Of these one son is connected with his father's business, and another, the eldest, has for several years been pursuing musical studies in Europe.[1]

The chief facts in quite a number of the sketches contained in this and the chapter next preceding are taken from the History of Bristol County, which appeared a few years since. In many instances I have made exact quotations; in many others I have used ideas and suggestions found there, and I am glad to again acknowledge my indebtedness to that publication. In these same sketches I have made such changes as time and my purpose dictated, and have added to them such facts, etc., as were within my own knowledge or were furnished me from various sources. I have largely increased the number of persons noticed in the history above

[1] For a number of years none of the family had any personal connection with the management of the business, but recently two of the sons, — the oldest and the youngest, — William H. and Henry D., have assumed its control. This change resulted from the death of Mrs. Wilmarth, — which occurred in October, 1893, — and the withdrawal of the then manager and only partner outside the family. The former now resides in town; the latter has recently returned to town.

alluded to. If my list is too long, I can only say, it would have been difficult to shorten it, because there was some special reason for the mention of each particular person in it. Long as this list of more or less prominent men is, however, it is by no means a complete one. Very many others as worthy as any of these have been born or have lived in the town, regarding whom it would have been wellnigh or quite impossible to obtain the requisite information; while others about whom doubtless interesting facts could have been collected have been omitted in these chapters for some other equally valid reason. In some instances families prominent in our early history, and up to within a few years comparatively, have no male representatives in the present generation or in that just passing away, and in other instances such are no longer specially interested in public affairs. Numbers who have been of good service in their day and generation, if forgotten here, are remembered elsewhere, as the sketch of town history has revealed itself through the records or facts relating to various historic localities have been mentioned — though, from the very nature of the case, in a work so incomplete as this very many deserving persons as well as very many important occurrences must be left out altogether.

The division of the town, which has made a finishing point historically at least for the present for old Attleborough proper, has also made it more necessary to look forward in certain ways than might otherwise have been the case and to say certain things which could otherwise perhaps have better been said in the future. This fact must account for a portion of what has been written regarding the gentlemen now living. Probably these sketches may be considered by some as too extended. I should have found it difficult, in many cases certainly, to make them less so. In the short experience which my attempt to complete this book has given me I have found that all personal facts, and even small incidents regarding the earlier inhabitants of the town, or any written words of their contemporary friends, were of deep interest, and I have thoroughly realized how great a matter of regret it is that only a very few scant reminiscences of our first inhabitants and their immediate posterity were to be obtained, because almost no records relating to them in any way had been kept. Personal records of the men now on the stage of life and of those just passed or passing away will be of ever-deepening interest as years go by. With this fact in view, and remembering also that this work is first of all for the people of this town and their families, I have deemed it wise to preserve here all I could in my limited space relative to some of the "men of our times" in addition to the very little gathered together relating to their ancestors or those of others.

What I have said of these biographical chapters will apply in some measure to the two following chapters, in which some of the things referred to would be omitted if I were arranging this work of my father's for a "general public." If I have been guilty of an error in judgment in thus occupying so much space, I can only say, my motive in doing it has been good, and by that I must ask to have the decision of the readers of the book weighed, whether the sentence they see fit to pronounce shall be one of censure or approval. — EDITOR.

CHAPTER XVIII.

GENEALOGY, STATISTICS, REPRESENTATIVES, TOWN OFFICERS, GRADUATES OF COLLEGES, ETC.

THE following account of the earliest settlers in town is almost exactly as it was prepared for the first edition of this work. Whether it was the author's intention to enlarge it is not known; but no notes were found sufficient to make any material changes, though some additions have been made.

A brief genealogy of some of the earliest settlers in the town is annexed, which is intended to include, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the names of those who came into the town previous to 1730, with the names of their children of the first generation (space not permitting me to extend it any farther) and also the previous place of their settlement, when known. This will not contain the names of many who have *all* either removed from town or whose families have become extinct. These sketches must necessarily be imperfect from the defects in the records and the general neglect of most families to preserve any knowledge of their remote ancestry. The discovery of many of these facts connected with the history of our ancestors has been the result of fortunate accident.

Many of the first proprietors (who belonged to Rehoboth) or their descendants became the occupants of the lands which they had purchased; but in process of time the cheapness of the land invited many emigrants from various parts of the colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth, who either became shareholders or purchased rights.[1]

ALLEN, NEHEMIAH, son of Isaac Allen, 1st, of Rehoboth, married Anne Wilmarth, daughter of Thomas Wilmarth, 2d, of that town; came to Attleborough about 1710. He had five children; namely, Isaac, John, Nehemiah, Daniel, Anne, who were born between the years 1711 and 1726.

ATWELL, RICHARD, married Sarah Bolkcom, daughter of Alexander Bolkcom; had five children by her: Sarah, Amos, Anne, Richard, Ichabod, 1728–1739. His second wife was Mary Lawrence, by whom he had one son, William, born 1741.

BARROWS, BENAJAH, ancestor of all that name in town. He came here about 1708 from Rehoboth, where he had resided for a short time. His wife was Lydia Bucklin, daughter of Joseph Bucklin, one of the early settlers of that town. He had nine[2] children: John, born in Rehoboth, 1707; Deborah, born 1711; Joseph, 1713; Nehemiah, 1715; Benjamin, March, 1717-18; Elijah, March, 1719–20; Lydia, 1722; Ichabod, 1724. He died January 5, 1754. From him was descended Dr. Ira Barrows, a graduate of Boston University in 1824 and a practising physician in Providence, R. I.

BLACKINTON, PENTICOST, the ancestor of all the Blackintons in town, came to Attleborough previous to 1702 from Marblehead. His wife's name was Mary. He had at least four children: Penticost; Mary, who married Ebenezer Daggett, 1st, of this town; Benjamin, who came with him; and Hepzibeth, who was born here December, 1702. Besides these there were John and Penelope, twins, born in 1705 and both died in 1706. Penticost, 1st, died September 24, 1715. His son Penticost married Rebeccah Figgett and had eight children — Penticost, born 1716; Rebeccah, born 1717; George, born 1720; Anne, born 1722; Mary, born 1724; John, born 1727; Othniel, born 1729; Peter, born 1731.

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[1] Usually newcomers, if they could not purchase a *share* in the undivided lands, bought a *right* to lay out a definite number of acres in a division already granted.

[2] The names of eight only are given. Whether the number is wrong or the name of the other not recorded the Editor does not know.

BLANDING, OBEDIAH, came from Rehoboth; son of William, 1st, of that name in Rehoboth; married Elizabeth Weeks; had five children: Ephraim, Samuel, Obediah, Elizabeth, Mehitabel, 1719–1727. Several others afterwards came here from that town, descendants of William, 1st; namely, Daniel, Noah, Lamack, etc.

BISHOP, WILLIAM, appears to be the first; came from Beverly or Salem about 1703. His wife's name was Dorothy. He had eight children: Edward, Elizabeth, William, Martha, Rebecca, Baily, Dorothy, John, 1701–1715. His second wife was Tabitha Hadley, married 1719.

There were several others of this name, some of them, perhaps, brothers of the above; namely, Daniel, who married Elizabeth Brown, 1734; Samuel, married Mary ——; Joseph, married Miriam Hodges; Thomas, who married "Sarah Hobel of Pequonick" and had one daughter, born in New Brookfield, N. Y., 1744. There was one Zepheniah Bishop, son of Zephaniah Bishop, who died a lingering death on board the Jersey Prison ship and whose gravestone is in the East Attleborough burying-ground.

BOLKCOM, ALEXANDER, 1st, who came to Attleborough previous to 1692, from whom all in town[1] are descended. He came from Providence and was a mason by trade. He married Sarah Woodcock, daughter of John Woodcock, Sr., and had seven children: William, born September 3, 1692; Katherine, born February 7, 1694; Alexander, born April 4, 1696; John, born April 29, 1699; Baruck, born June 12, 1702; Sarah, born February 8, 1703–4; Joseph, born February 23, 1705–6.

He died January 31, 1727–28. His son William married Mary Tyler, October 3, 1713; Alexander married Martha Rockinton, of Needham, May 14, 1725 — intentions entered April 8, 1725; Baruck married Patience Blake; John married Mary Grover, by whom he had five children, and afterwards Sarah Grover, by whom he had eight children; Joseph married Mary Parminter, March 21, 1733–34.

BOURNE, ANDREW, came, it is supposed, from Great Britain to Attleborough about 1720 and settled in the east part of the town. All of that name in this vicinity are descended from him.

CAPRON, BANFIELD, was the first of that name who came to this country. From him all the Caprons in this vicinity are descended. The name of his first wife was Elizabeth Callender. His children were: Banfield, Joseph, Elizabeth, Banfield (born October 22, 1684), Edward, John, Jonathan (born March 10, 1705–6), Sarah (born March 11, 1708–9). Another account adds Walter, Betsey, Mary, Hannah, and Margaret, and omits Elizabeth.

His wife Elizabeth died March 10, 1735. He married, December 16, 1735, Mrs. Sarah Daggett, relict of Deacon John Daggett, and he died August 25 (another account says August 10), 1752, at the very advanced age of ninety-two. He settled where the late Joab Daggett lived and laid out the lands there. Tradition says he came to this country alone when he was quite a lad, as a cabin boy, to seek his own fortune.

CARPENTER, Josiah, Noah, William, Obediah, etc., came to Attleborough from Rehoboth and were all descendants of Samuel and William Carpenter, two of the earliest of that name in Rehoboth. William Carpenter was admitted an inhabitant of that town March 28, 1645. He was admitted a freeman of Massachusetts May 13, 1640.

Noah was the son of William, of Rehoboth, born March 28, 1672; married Sarah Johnson December 3, 1700, by whom he had thirteen children: Noah, Miriam, Sarah, Stephen, Asa, Mary, born in Rehoboth; Margaret, Simon (died infant), Isaiah, Simon, Martha, Elizabeth, Amy. He married Ruth Follet, May, 1727, by whom he had one daughter, born May, 1728.

In an account of this family recently published it is stated that the ancestor of all of this name in New England is "one William Carpenter, who was born in England in 1576, left a place called Harwell, going to Southampton, and from that port sailed for America in the ship 'Bevis,' and landed in May 1638." He settled in Weymouth and in 1643 removed to Rehoboth, where he died at the age of eighty-two. He appears to have been a man of considerable note. His son William came with him to America, also settling in Rehoboth. With William, Jr., came his wife and four children, of "ten years or less." Of these one was William, and he had at Rehoboth at least ten sons. Obadiah was the tenth, born in 1677. "Deacon Obadiah

[1] It must be remembered that this account was prepared over fifty years ago and that some of these names have no representative, or but one or two. — EDITOR.

Carpenter was born in Rehoboth in 1707, and died in Attleboro where he lived, in 1764. He married Bethiah Lyon and both are buried in the old cemetery. Attleboro, old slate stones, under a fir tree, marking their graves."[1] He must be the Obediah above mentioned, who, the author says, came here early and was probably the son of Obadiah, born in 1677. The Noah mentioned above must have been one of the ten sons of William, 3d, and he (his grandfather having died) was the William, Jr., who was "Clerk of the Propriety" from 1682 to 1703.

CLAFLIN (formerly McClaflin[2]), ANTIPAS, came here from Sudbury, Mass. He had three children after his arrival in this town; namely, Hepzebeth, born November 17, 1717; Antipas and Ebenezer, twins, born February 8, 1720–21. His wife's name was Sarah. Other sons probably came with him — Noah, Phinehas, etc.

CUMMINGS (formerly Cummins or Comens), DAVID, came here very early from Woburn, this State. He settled in the southeast part of the town, on a farm still owned and occupied by descendants. He had either seven or nine children.

CUTTING, AARON, was the first and only one of this name who came here. His son Aaron, Jr., married Ruth Pratt, 1749. (She died July 26, 1753.) His second wife was Sarah Tucker, and by both of them he had nine children.

DAGGETT, JOHN, ancestor of all the Daggetts here and in Connecticut, came to Attleborough from Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard, about 1709,[3] with his wife Sarah and nine children, four sons and five daughters; namely, Mayhew, Ebenezer, Thomas, Napthali, — who was "slain by a tree," — Abigail, who married Ebenezer Guild, October 12, 1714, and died November 20, 1790, aged ninety-seven years; Jane, who married Caleb Hall, November 9, 1721. He removed to —— Manor, N. J., and was living in 1771; Zilpha, who married Nathanie Robinson, July 18, 1721; Patience, who married Noah Robinson, October 4, 1723, and died in 1793, and was buried in the old Falls cemetery; and Mary, who married John Titus, January 8, 1727–28 — all of Attleborough. Ebenezer, born August 29, 1690, married Mary Blackinton, November 9, 1721. She was daughter of Pentecost Blackinton, and was born in Marblehead, November 25, 1698. Mayhew married Joanna Biven, of Deerfield.[4]

By recent research I am able to trace this family still farther back, and give the result for the information of numerous descendants here and elsewhere.

John the first of Attleborough was the son of Thomas Daggett, Esq., of Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, who married Hannah Mayhew, the oldest daughter of Governor Mayhew, and had brothers Thomas, Samuel, Joshua, Israil, and a sister Mercy. Thomas, the father of John the first of this town, was son of John Daggett the first, who came to this country in 1630 and was settled in Watertown in 1642, and probably removed to Martha's Vineyard with Governor Mayhew when he settled the island in 1644. John the first of Rehoboth was brother of Thomas, and son of John the first of Watertown. There is reason to believe that the last-

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[1] See *Attleboro Advocate* for June 2, 1888. In another account published by a descendant residing in New York William, the ancestor, was born in Amesbury, Wiltshire, England, about 1603–5 and came to this country not far from 1635. He was mentioned in the "Initial Deed" of Roger Williams and his "twelve disciples," and this shows him to have been one of "The Thirteen Proprietors of Providence Plantations." He, it is said, as early as 1638 bought lands at Pawtucket and settled there with "several other families." He is said also to have been one of the founders of the Baptist Church in America and to have received baptism from Roger Williams himself. Tradition makes him a preacher in England and says he "fled to America, being compelled to go on shipboard at night to avoid his persecutors." He died September 7, 1685. He must be the William, Jr., who came with his father, wife, and four small children to this country and finally to "Seacunk." The accounts differ somewhat, but doubtless point to the same person, son of the real ancestor.

[2] Sometimes spelt Meclothlin, and in one place (R. N. P. Rec. p. 346) Mack Cleaulan — a proof of the variation which names undergo in the course of a few generations. Tradition says the family originated in Scotland.

[3] According to a History of the Doggett-Daggett Family he came between October 17, 1711, and December 24, 1712. — EDITOR.

[4] This was probably not Deerfield, Mass., as the author formerly supposed, as for a hundred and fifty years after the settlement of that town the name is not known there. The name is not common at the date mentioned, and for that and other reasons it is conjectured that the Deerfield may have been a place of that name in England.

mentioned John had a brother Thomas [1] who came to New England, and he was probably the Thomas who settled in Marshfield, this State.[2]

DAY, SAMUEL, appears to be the first, came from Rehoboth. His wife was Priscilla. He had several children: Samuel Edward, born June 9, 1705; John, born September 29, 1708; Priscilla, born November 22, 1711; Benjamin, born in Attleborough, April 28, 1720; and perhaps others.

One Robert Day was admitted freeman of Massachusetts, May 6, 1635, and Ralph Day, May, 1645.

FOSTER, JOHN, came from Dorchester about 1712; married Margaret Ware; had thirteen children: John, born 1706; Robert, born 1707; Ebenezer, born 1709 (these three born in Dorchester); Margaret, born in Wrentham, 1712; Benjamin, born 1714; Jonathan, born 1715; Sarah, born 1718; Timothy, born 1720; Nathan, born 1722; Esther, born 1724; Michael, born 1725 (and died 1726); Michael, born 1727; Mary, born 1729.

FOSTER, ALEXANDER, another who came to town, whose wife's name was Susanna, had six children: Elizabeth, Sarah, Alexander, Edward, Suanna, Jane — from 1734 to 1746.

FREEMAN, DAVID and JONATHAN, inhabitants of Rehoboth, came to Attleborough — probably the ancestors of all the Freemans in this town. The name of David's wife was Mary. Some of his children were, Ebenezer, born April 13, 1684; Hannah, born April 24, 1686; Margaret, born February 9, 1688–89. Jonathan's children were William, Mary, Jonathan, Mercy, Samuel, Anne, David, — from 1690 to 1704.

FRENCH, JOHN, son of John French, 1st, of Rehoboth, came from that town about 1710; married Martha Williams; had five children, — John, born in Rehoboth; Ephraim and Martha, twins, who died infants; Hannah, Samuel — 1709 to 1714. His second wife was Abigail White, married May 23, 1728, by whom he had two children: John, born 1729, and Thomas, born 1730.

THOMAS, brother of the preceding, also came from Rehoboth, married Mary Brown, January 5, 1720–21, had eight children: Thomas, Christopher, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Bridget, Sarah, Hannah — 1722 to 1738.

FULLER. Persons of this name are numerous. The first are not all known. One was John, whose children were: Ithaman, Abigail, John, Jeduthan, Abial, Joanna — 1702 to 1719. His second wife was Mary Follet; had one daughter, Sarah, born 1721.

Jonathan Fuller was an early settler of Rehoboth. Robert and William Fuller were admitted freemen of Massachusetts 2d June, 1641.

GUILD, EBENEZER, came from Dedham; married Abigail Daggett (daughter of Deacon John Daggett, 1st), October 12, 1714; had several children: Joseph, Napthali, Ebenezer — 1716 to 1722.

JOHN and BENJAMIN also came with him.

HALL. Edward and John came from England, soon to Taunton, and thence to Rehoboth. EPHRAIM, son of John, came to Attleborough. John was admitted freeman of Massachusetts, May 14, 1634; Edward, May 2, 1638. John married Mary Newell, of Roxbury, November 18, 1684. Edward died November 27, 1670.

CHRISTOPHER HALL also came to Attleborough; had two sons, Caleb and Joshua.

IDE, NICHOLAS, LIEUT., son of Nicholas, 1st, of Rehoboth, who was there as early as April 9, 1645, was born November, 1654; married Mary Ormsby December 27, 1677 or 78: had seven children: Nathaniel, Jacob, Martha, Patience, John, Benjamin — 1678 to 1693 — all born in Rehoboth. Nicholas, by his second wife, Eliza, was born in Attleborough, July 25, 1697. Nicholas, Sr., died 5th June, 1723. Nathaniel died 14th March, 1702-3.

JACOB, second son, married Sarah Perry. His children were: Sarah, born December 13, 1712; Jacob, born September 26, 1723.

[1] Thomas Daggett, aged thirty years, was examined for a certificate of license to emigrate to New England, May 13, 1637. — *Drake's Researches*, p. 30.

[2] This supposition of the author does not seem to be sustained by later research, as there is no mention of such a relationship in the family history just referred to. The author of that work states that John the first of Watertown probably lived in Rehoboth for a few years previous to his settlement in Martha's Vineyard, as in 1646 one "John Doget" had allotments of land in that town. His son John, the first of Rehoboth, was not then old enough to be a "freeman."

JOHN, third son, married Mehetable Robinson, May 14, 1719; had four children: Sarah, John, Benjamin, Amos — 1720 to 1729.

INGRAHAM, JOSEPH, BENJAMIN, JEREMIAH, ELIJAH, descendants of Benjamin and of Jarrett (or Jaret), whose name is on the list of purchasers, come from Rehoboth. Joseph married Mary Shepardson. Jeremiah married Susanna Tucker, of Stoughton. Intentions published August 7, 1731.

ELIJAH married Sarah Ide; had eight children: Elijah, Jabez, Sarah and William, twins, Betty, Remember, Comfort, Jeremiah — 1734 to 1746.

MAXCY, ALEXANDER,[1] came from Gloucester, Mass., with his family, about 1721, and soon purchased and settled on John Woodcock's farm, and continued the public house. He was "a soldier in Gallup's Company, for the sad expedition in 1690, of Phips against Quebec." His wife's name was Abigail. He died September 20, 1723. His children were Alexander, who died April 2, 1724; Joseph, Josiah, Abigail, who married Jacob Hascall, of Gloucester; Mary, who married William Ware, May 4, 1726; Esther, who married Nehemiah Ward, December 3, 1728; and Benjamin.

JOSIAH married Mary Everett, daughter of Joshua Everett; had eleven children. His second son, Levi, whose wife was Ruth, daughter of Jacob Newell, was the father of Jonathan, Milton, and Virgil, graduates of Brown University, eminent in literary and professional life. Levi, another son, who possessed superior talents, though not liberally educated, died at the South.

MARTIN, JOHN, ROBERT, and TIMOTHY came from Rehoboth. Timothy married Mary, daughter of John Fuller, then of Rehoboth, afterwards of Attleborough; had three children: Timothy, Sarah Abel.

Three of this name were admitted freemen of Massachusetts — Thomas Martin, 22d May, 1639; John and Robert, 13th May, 1640. John settled in Rehoboth.

MOORE, ALEXANDER, married Alice Chaffee; had eight children: Samuel, Comfort, Jane, Betsey, Esther, Alice, Kate, Hannah.

NEWELL, JACOB, came here from Roxbury or Dorchester about 1715, bringing with him his family of several sons — Jacob, Joseph, Ephraim, etc. Jason was born here December 12, 1717. His wife's name was Joyce. He settled near the first meetinghouse, and bought a part of Willett's farm, and, according to tradition, distributed it among his seven sons. In 1834 it still remained in seven divisions, and is still occupied by a descendant of Mr. Newell, of the same name. (1887.)

PECK, HEZEKIAH, son of Nicholas Peck, of Rehoboth, came to Attleborough about 1700 with his family. He married Deborah Cooper, of the former place; had seven children: Deborah, Judith, Hannah, Hezekiah, Rachel, born in Rehoboth; Petronella, Perthenah — 1687 to 1711.

Several other Pecks came here from Rehoboth; namely, John and Elisha, brothers of Hezekiah; Daniel and Ichabod, sons of Jathniel, who was the son of Joseph,[2] 1st, who came to Rehoboth from Hingham, Mass., and probably to that place from Hingham, England.

READ, DANIEL, came from Rehoboth about 1716, with five children, Beriah, Ichabod, Hannah, Abigail, Esther (Daniel died infant), 1707 to 1713. His first wife was Elizabeth Bos-

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[1] It is said that a brother came with him to this country, and settled in one of the Southern States.

[2] Mr. Joseph Peck and Mr. Robert Peck were admitted freemen of Massachusetts thirteenth March, 1638-39. Robert was ordained teacher at Hingham, eighth November, 1638, and twenty-seventh October, 1641, returned to England with his family. Joseph's name appears on the Rehoboth records, April 9, 1645. On his way from Hingham the following accident befell him: —

1645, I. 25. "Another strange accident happened by fire about this time. One Mr. Peck and three others of Hingham, being about with others to remove to Seaconk, (which was concluded by the Commissioners of the United Colonies to belong to Plymouth,) riding thither, they sheltered themselves and their horses in an Indian wigwam, which by some occasion took fire, and (although they were all four in it, and labored to their utmost, &c.) burnt three of their horses to death, and all their goods to the value of 50 pounds"

One John Peck was in Rehoboth as early as twenty-ninth March, 1645. (*Win. Jour.* II, 216.)

Nicholas, John, Joseph, Jr., are supposed to be sons of Mr. Joseph, who came with him to Rehoboth; if this supposition be true, then all of the name are descended from him.

worth; his second was Eliz. Ide, by whom he had eight children: Daniel, Noah, Elizabeth, Samuel, Abigail, Rachel, Benjamin, Thankful, 1716 to 1734.[1]

At least two other Reads came here from Rehoboth — Moses and Ezra. Those of this name have been very numerous in this town.

RICHARDS, EDWARD and NATHAN, came from Dedham. They were the sons of John Richards, of that town, and nephews of Col. Joseph Richards, A.M. and M.D., of Harvard College, 1721. From them are descended those of that name in this town. The first in Dedham was Edward, who was admitted freeman in 1641. (*Worthington's Hist. Ded.*)

Caty, daughter of John Richards, of Dedham, born May 27, 1760, married Jabez Gay, of Attleborough, December 7, 1780. Abigail, born September 18, 1764, married Obed Robinson, of Attleborough, December 19, 1786. (*See Richards' Genealogy, ch. 6, p. 119.*)

RICHARDSON, STEPHEN, JOHN, WILLIAM, SETH, brothers, came to Attleborough from Woburn, about 1712. Seth married Mary Brown. His children were Stephen, Seth (died), Mary, Abigail, Sarah, Seth, Phebe, 1714 to 1725.

Several others also came to this town: Timothy, Francis, etc. Ezekiel Richardson, freeman of Massachusetts 18th May, 1631; Samuel, 2d May, 1638.

ROBINSON.[2] Six of this name came to Attleborough from Rehoboth; namely, Nathaniel, Noah, John, Timothy, Samuel, Ebenezer. They were descendants of George Robinson, 1st, of Rehoboth, whose name is on our list of purchasers. He married Joanna Ingraham, 18th 4 mo. 1651.

NATHANIEL married Zilpha, third daughter of Dea. John Daggett, July 18, 1721; had nine children: Nathan, Nathaniel, George, Zilpha, Elizabeth, Elihu, Amos, Abigail, Margaret, 1722 to 1739.

NOAH married Patience, fourth daughter of Dea. John Daggett, 1st, Oct. 4, 1722; had seven children: Zephaniah, Mary, Elijah, William, Huldah, Enoch, Comfort, 1723 to 1740.

JOHN married Thankful Newell, and had several descendants.

TIMOTHY married Elizabeth (or Eliza) Grant.

SAMUEL married Mary Cooper for his first wife, and Mary Ide for his second wife.

EBENEZER married Elizabeth Read, and had eight children: Mehetable, Sarah, Ebenezer, Samuel, Elizabeth, Ezekiel, Dan, Martha, 1721 to 1738.

STANLEY, THOMAS, NATHANIEL, JOSEPH, SAMUEL, JACOB, JOHN, came from Topsfield, Mass., and settled near the Falls. The last three were brothers. Thomas and Samuel were here in 1707; Jacob came about 1717.

THOMAS married Mary Gould, had twelve children: Thomas, Mary, Phebe, Nathaniel, Samuel, Daniel, David (died infant), Martha, William, Abigail, Priscilla, David.

JACOB married Elizabeth Guild. His children were Jacob, Benjamin, Elizabeth (died infant), Deborah, Jonathan, Elizabeth, Solomon, Abigail.

NATHANIEL married Sarah Blackinton. His children were Serviah, Sarah, Hepzibeth, Abner, Amy, Sibula, Israil, Penticost, Anne, Nathaniel, 1721 to 1744.

STARKEY, ANDREW, came here about 1708. His first wife was Mehitable Waite, by whom he had two children: Mehitable, born May, 1709; John, born July, 1712. His second wife was Catharine, daughter of Alexander Bolkcom, by whom he had three children: Jemima, Andrew, Thomas, 1722 to 1733. Andrew, Sr., died 16th August, 1740.

SWEET, HENRY, was here about 1690, had five children: John, Philip (died infant), Thomas, Michael (died infant), Dorothy. He was one of the earliest, if not the first of that name. He died 8th December, 1704. Probably a descendant of John, admitted freeman, 1641.

SWEETLAND, JOHN, came from Marblehead, with several others of that name. Three of his children were Benjamin, Deborah, Samuel, 1703 to 1711. He died 9th June, 1711. Samuel Sweetland was married to Elizabeth Bradford, Dec. 14, 1749, by Rev. Habijah Weld.

TITUS, ROBERT, — the first of the name in this country, — came from Weymouth in 1644, one

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[1] Thomas Read, admitted freeman of Massachusetts, April 1, 1634; John, thirteenth May, 1640; William, fourteenth December, 1638; Esdras, second June, 1641. John and Thomas (perhaps sons of John) settled in Rehoboth, and were the ancestors of the numerous progeny of Reads in that town and Attleborough.

[2] William Robinson, freeman of Massachusetts at Salem, 27th December, 1642; John, 2d June, 1641.

of the first settlers of Rehoboth. He removed to Long Island with his family, with the exception of the oldest son, John, who remained in Rehoboth, and who subsequently came to this town, he being one of the proprietors of the North Purchase. His four sons, John, Jr., Silas, Samuel, and Joseph, settled here, and for several generations the family was quite numerous both here and in Rehoboth.

TYLER, EBENEZER, had nine children: Ebenezer, Elizabeth, Phebe, Catharine, Hannah (died), John, Hannah, William, Job, 1714 to 1731.[1] Job settled in Ashford, Conn.

SAMUEL married Mary Capron, had eleven children: Mary (died), Samuel (died), Moses, Samuel, Mary, Nathan, Huldah, Habijah and Elizabeth, — twins, — Ebenezer, Benjamin (died).

JOHN married Nancy (Nanne) Thacher, daughter of Rev. Peter Thacher. His son John, Jr., removed to Harford, Penn., in 1794. His grandson, the son of John, Jr., is the Rev. William S. Tyler, Professor of Greek in Amherst College, a man of marked ability and extended learning, and having the reputation of being one of the best classical scholars of the age.

WILKINSON, JOHN, came here about 1700; married Rachel Fales. His children were eight in number; namely, John, Joseph, Rachel, Mary, Hepzibeth, Abigail, Sarah, Hannah, 1702 to 1723. He purchased Capt. Willett's share in the undivided lands, probably of his son Andrew Willett. He died 24th Jan. 1724-25.

John Wilkinson, Malden, died Dec. 1675. — *Far. Reg.*

WILMARTH, THOMAS,[2] came to Attleborough about 1708, — married Deborah Peck — had seven children: Mary, Thomas, Deborah, Elizabeth, Anne, Ebenezer, Eliphalet, 1709 to 1728.

Several other Wilmarths came from that town: Samuel, — son of Thomas 2d, of Rehoboth — Jonathan, Nathan, Stephen, — sons of Jonathan of that place — Daniel, etc.

The Deanes came from Taunton, Ellises, Drapers, etc., from Dedham, subsequent to 1730.

It is not expected that the foregoing list includes *all* who came previous to that period. The names of the original ancestors of some could not be ascertained.

The following list of names, etc., is here printed exactly as it was in the first edition of this History. While it was doubtless a matter of curiosity to some at the time it was prepared, it will at this time be much more of a curiosity to many, and is therefore given.

LIST OF THE NAMES OF PERSONS NOW IN TOWN, WITH THE NUMBER OF EACH NAME AFFIXED, TAKEN FROM THE TAX LIST OF 1832.

A. Albey 1 — Alger 2 — Aldrich 1 — Allen 8 — Alexander 1 — Arnold 3 — Atherton 2 — Alwell 1.

B. Babcock 3 — Bacon 2 — Barrows 8 — Bates 6 — Bailey 1 — Baldwin 1 — Bishop 3 — Blake 1 — Blackington 9 — Blackwell 1 — Blanchard 1 — Blanding 4 — Bliss 5 — Bolkcom 8 — Bosworth 1 — Bourne 1 — Bowen 5 — Bragg 2 — Briggs 7 — Brown 4 — Bruce 1 — Bullock 2.

C. Capron 11 — Cargill 1 — Carpenter 14 — Chace 2 — Chandler 1 — Cheever 1 — Chickering 1 — Claflin 14 — Clark 2 — Clayes 1 — Clinlock Mc. 1 — Cobb 2 — Codding 3 — Cole 2 — Colvin 1 — Cook 1 — Cooper 3 — Cornell 2 — Crocker 1 — Crowningshield 1 — Cutting 1 — Cummins 5 — Cushman 3.

D. Daggett 11 — Dart 1 — Day 2 — Davis 1 — Deane 11 — Derry 1 — Dodge 2 — Draper 17 — Drake 2 — Dunham 2.

E. Earl 1 — Eddy 1 — Eldridge 3 — Ellis 3 — Everett 4.

F. Fales 1 — Fairbrother 2 — Field 3 — Fisher 6 — Follet 2 — Forbush 1 — Foster 6 — Franklin 1 — Freeman 7 — French 7 — Frost 1 — Fuller 21 — Ferguson 1 — Furthington 1.

G. Gardner 2 — Gay 1 — George 2 — Gilbert 1 — Giles 1 — Goff 1 — Grant 3 — Green 3 — Guild 2.

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[1] Tyler, Abraham, Haverhill, 1650, died the sixth of May, 1673. Job, Andover, 1653, had a son Moses who died, 1727, aged eighty-five, having had ten sons. Nathaniel, Lynn, 1642. — *Far. Reg.*

There was a Rev. William Tyler, a native of Attleborough, and son of a Colonel Tyler, who removed to Pawtucket. There was one Hannah Tyler, who married General Nathaniel Guild, October 1, 1810. She was born in 1789, and died August 19, 1825; resided in Dednam. The names of Ebenezer and Samuel Tyler are found on a jury in Rehoboth, October 3, 1684.

[2] Grandson of Thomas Wilmarth, Sr., who came into Rehoboth as early as March 28, 1645, with his wife and children. This name was anciently spelt Wilmot.

H. Hall 4 — Hamar 1 — Harkness 1 — Harris 2 — Hatch 4 — Haven 2 — Hayward 1 — Hicks 1 — Hitchcock 1 — Holman 3 — Holmes 7 — Horr 2 — Horton 1 — Hunt 2 — Huntress 1.

I. Ide 6 — Ingalls 1 — Ingraham 4.

J. Jackson 2 — Jewett 2 — Jillson 5 — Jones 1.

K. Kent 1 — Kempton 2 — Knowles 1.

L. Lane 1 — Latham 1 — Lathrop 1 — Lavery 1 — Lee 1 — Lewis 1 — Lindsey 3.

M. Mann 1 — Martin 6 — Mason 3 — May 3 — Metcalf 1 — More 3 — Morse 6 — Morey 1.

N. Newell 4 — Newman 1.

P. Paine 3 — Parmenter 3 — Peck 6 — Perry 5 — Pidge 2 — Pierce 3 — Pike 5 — Phillip 1 — Pond 1 — Price 3.

R. Read 9 — Richards 22 — Richardson 15 — Riley 1 — Rhodes 2 — Robinson 9 — Rogers 1 — Rounds 1.

S. Sanford 2 — Savery 1 — Shaw 3 — Sheldon 1 — Shepard 1 — Shepardson 1 — Skinner 1 Slack 3 — Smith 1 — Sprague 1 — Stanley 13 — Starkey 3 — Stearns 1 — Strafford 1 — Stratton 1 Streeter 1 — Swan 1 — Sweet 6.

T. Thacher 2 — Thayer 3 — Thurber 2 — Tiffany 2 — Tifft 3 — Tingley 2 — Titus 2 — Towne 3 — Tripp 3 — Tucker 1 — Turner 1 — Tyler 1.

W. Walker 1 — Walton 1 — Walcot 3 — Warner 1 — Welman 4 — Westcot 2 — Wheeler 1 — Whipple 3 — Whiting 4 — White 7 — Wilder 2 — Williams 6 — Wilmarth 11 — Witherell 4 — Withington 2 — Woodcock 2 — Wood 3 — Worsely 1 — Wright 1.

There are about 200 different names (surnames) on the List, and 618 different persons. There are, of course, some other names in town which are not in the assessor's Rates; but the above catalogue includes the most of them. These items, indifferent to some, may be curiosities to others.

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES

From the Incorporation in 1694 to the Division in 1887. Elections at first, and for many years, were in May, unless otherwise designated. At present they are in November.

1709.[1] David Freeman.
1710. David Freeman.
1711. David Freeman.
1712. Capt. Joseph Brown.[2]
1713. Mr. David Freeman,
Lieut. Nicholas Ide.[3]
1714. Lieut. Nicholas Ide.
1715. David Freeman.
1716. David Freeman.
1717. David Freeman.
1718. David Freeman.
1719. Jeremiah Whipple.
1720. Dea. John Daggett,
David Freeman.[4]
1721. David Freeman.
1722. *No one would accept.*
1723. Capt. John Foster.
1724. Mr. Nathaniel Carpenter.
1725. Capt. John Foster.
1726. Capt. Joseph Brown.
1727. Capt. Joseph Brown.
1728. Capt. Joseph Brown.
1729. Mr. Nathaniel Carpenter.
1730. Capt. John Foster.
1731. Capt. John Foster.
1732. Capt. John Foster.
1733. Nathaniel Carpenter.
1734. *Sent an excuse.*
1735. Nathaniel Carpenter.
1736. Capt. Mayhew Daggett.
1737. John Robinson.
Capt. Mayhew Daggett,
John Foster, Esq.,
Timothy Tingley,
Samuel Tyler,
Ahasel Read.
1738. John Foster, Esq.
1739. John Robbins.
1740. John Robbins.
1741. Capt. Mayhew Daggett.
1742. Capt. Mayhew Daggett.
1743. Maj. John Foster.

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[1] The reader will perceive that no representative was chosen during the first fourteen years after the incorporation. The reason is given in the extracts from the town records, pages 88, 89.

[2] Son of Mr. John Brown of Rehoboth, — well known in the history of the Old Colony — came here about 1709 from Kingston, R. I., to which place he had removed about 1702. In this list the *titles* generally given according to the custom of the times are retained, as they appear on record.

[3] Nov. 1713. [4] June 1720.

1744. Capt. Mayhew Daggett.
1745. Capt. Samuel Tyler.
1746. Perez Bradford, Esq.,
Capt. Mayhew Daggett.[1]
1747. Capt. Samuel Tyler.
1748. Capt. Samuel Tyler.
1749. Capt. Samuel Tyler.
1750. Benjamin Day.
1751. Benjamin Day.
1752. Benjamin Day.
1753. Benjamin Day.
1754. *Name not on record.*
1755. *Name not on record.*
1756. Lieut. Josiah Maxcy.
1757. Lieut. Josiah Maxcy.
1758. Lieut. Josiah Maxcy.
1759. Dea. Benjamin Day.
1760. Japhesh Bicknell.
1761. Stephen Fuller.
1762. Stephen Fuller, Esq.
1763. Stephen Fuller, Esq.
1764. Dea. Ebenezer Lane.
1765. Dea. Ebenezer Lane.
1766. Dea. Ebenezer Lane.
1767. Dea. Ebenezer Lane.
1768. John Daggett.
1769. John Daggett.
1770. John Daggett.
1771. John Daggett.
1772. John Daggett.
1773. Capt. John Daggett.
1774. Capt. John Daggett.
1775. Capt. John Daggett.
1776. Capt. John Stearns.
1777. Capt. John Stearns,
William Stanley.
1778. Capt. Elisha May.
1779. Capt. Elisha May.
1780. Capt. Elisha May,
John Daggett.
1781. Elisha May.
1782. *Name not found.*
1783. Col. Stephen Richardson.
1784. Elisha May, Esq.
1785. Col. Stephen Richardson.
1786. Capt. Ebenezer Tyler.
1787. William Stanley.
1788. Elisha May, Esq.
1789. Capt. Caleb Richardson.
1790. Maj. Ebenezer Tyler.
1791. Elisha May, Esq.
1792. Maj. Ebenezer Tyler.
1793. Elisha May, Esq.
1794. Elisha May, Esq.
1795. Elisha May, Esq.
1796. Elisha May, Esq.
1797. Elisha May, Esq.
1798. Elisha May, Esq.
1799. Col. Ebenezer Tyler.
1800. Elisha May, Esq.
1801. Elisha May, Esq.
1802. Maj. Ebenezer Tyler.
1803. Maj. Ebenezer Tyler.
1804. Maj. Ebenezer Tyler.
1805. Ebenezer Bacon.
1806. Joel Read, Esq.
1807. Ebenezer Bacon.
1808. Joel Read.
1809. Joel Read.
1810. Joel Read.
1811. Joel Read,
John Richardson,
Benjamin Bolkcom.
1812. John Richardson,
Joel Read,
Benjamin Bolkcom.
1813. Joel Read,
Benjamin Bolkcom,
John Richardson.
1814. Capt. Thomas French.
Jabez Newell.
1815. Abiathar Richardson, Jr.
1816. Ebenezer Daggett, Esq.
1817. *Sent no one.*
1818. *Sent no one.*
1819. *Sent no one.*
1820. Abiathar Richardson, Jr.
1821. Abiathar Richardson, Jr.
1822. Ebenezer Daggett, Esq.
1823. Ebenezer Daggett, Esq.
1824. *Sent no one.*
1825. William Blackinton.
1826. William Blackinton.
1827. George Ellis,
Elkanah Briggs,
Abiathar Richardson, Jr.
1828. George Ellis,
Elkanah Briggs, Esq.
1829. Elkanah Briggs, Esq.
1830. Elkanah Briggs, Esq.
1831. Abijah M. Ide, Esq.
1832. Abijah M. Ide, Esq.
1833. Abijah M. Ide, Esq.
1834. Abijah M. Ide, Esq.
1835. David E. Holman.
1836. John Daggett,
David E. Holman,
Lemuel May.

[1] July 22d, 1746, owing to Bradford's death.

1838. John Daggett.
1839. Carlos Barrows,
Jonathan Bliss,
John Daggett.
1840. Carlos Barrows,
Jonathan Bliss.
1841. Willard Blackinton,
Artemas Stanley.
1842. Artemas Stanley,
William Blackinton.
1843. Daniel Wilmarth,
Calvin Richards.
1844. Lemuel May,
Forrest Foster.
1845. Lemuel May,
Forrest Foster.
1846. George Bacon,
Harvey Claflin.
1847. George Bacon,
Harvey Claflin.
1848. *None sent.*
1849. George D. Hatch,
Samuel Carpenter.
1850. George D. Hatch,
Samuel Carpenter.
1851. Lyman W. Daggett.
1852. Lyman W. Daggett.
1853. Lyman W. Daggett.
1854. *None sent.*
1855. Charles Cravens.
1856. Elkanah Briggs.
1857. Hervey M. Richards.
1858. Horatio N. Richardson,
William W. Blodgett.
1859. *None sent.*
1860. George D. Hatch,
Elisha Wilmarth.
1861. Gardner C. Hodges.
1862. William D. Earl,
Ezekiel Bates.
1863. Horatio N. Richardson,
John Thompson.
1864. Handel N. Daggett,
Mina B. Daggett.
1865. Henry K. W. Allen,
Ira N. Conant.
1866. John Daggett,
Edmund Ira Richards.
1867. Joseph A. Perry.
1868. Willard Blackinton.
1869. Joseph D. Pierce.
1870. Gardner C. Wright.
1871. John T. Bates.
1872. Obed C. Turner.
1873. Edward Sanford.
1874. Samuel S. Ginnodo.
1875. Felix G. Whitney.
1876. Henry C. Read.
1877. George Asa Dean.
1878. George Price,
Abijah T. Wales.
1879. John Stanley.
1880. Edwin J. Horton.
1881. George N. Crandall,
Burrill Porter, Jr.
1882. John Whitehill.
1883. John Whitehill.
1884. Handel N. Daggett,
George A. Adams.
1885. George A. Adams.
1886. Frank I. Barden.
1887. Thomas G. Sandland,
Abijah T. Wales.

LIST OF SENATORS.

This list is taken from the books of Senate Records in the State House at Boston. Upon the first page of the first book it is stated that the following records relate to actions of the General Court "began and held at Boston, the 25th day of October, 1780, being the first sitting of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

1785–86. Elisha May, Esq. by 435 votes.

1790 to 1803,[1] Elisha May, Esq. by a large majority.

1831–32. Ebenezer Daggett,
1838. Lemuel May,
1850. John Daggett,
1851. Lyman W. Dean,
1853. Willard Blackinton,
1859. Homer M. Daggett,
1863. Hervey M. Richards,
1865. Abijah M. Ide,
1866. Jacob Ide,
1876. Samuel S. Ginnodo,
1884. Frederick L. Burden.

[1] Upon the town books, for nine of these years Mr. May is called a representative, — an error doubtless of the town clerk. His name was found on the Senate records for each of the above-mentioned years, with the number of votes by which he was elected. — EDITOR.

LIST OF TOWN CLERKS.

1697 [1]–98.	Anthony Sprague.
1699.	Daniel Jencks.
1700–1.	Anthony Sprague.
1702.	Joseph Ingraham.
1703–4.	Anthony Sprague.
1705.	John Follett.
1706.	*Name not given. Probably Follett.*
1707.	John Follett.
1708.	James Brown.
1709–12.	John Follett.
1713–19.	Noah Carpenter.
1720–22.	*Probably same.*
1723–34.	Thomas Stanley.
1735–40.	Thomas Wilmarth.
1741–46.	Jacob Newell.
1747.	Thomas Wilmarth.
1748–50.	John Robbins, Jr.
1751–52.	*Name not found.*
1753–54.	Benjamin Day.
1755.	Jacob Newell.
1756.	John Robbins, Jr.
1757–58.	Stephen Fuller.
1759–62.	John Robbins, Jr.
1763–65.	Stephen Fuller.
1766–67.	Henry Sweet.
1768–70.	Jacob Ide.
1771.	Henry Sweet.
1772.	Jacob Ide.
1773–77.	Elisha May.
1778.	John Wilkinson.
1779–80.	Col. Elisha May.
1781.	Col. John Daggett.
1782.	Ebenezer Tyler.
1783.	Elisha May.
1784.	Stephen Richardson.
1785–86.	Ebenezer Tyler.
1787.	Caleb Richardson.
1788–89.	Ebenezer Tyler.
1790.	Caleb Richardson.
1791.	Ebenezer Tyler.
1792.	Ebenezer Bacon.
1793.	Abiathar Richardson.
1794.	Ebenezer Bacon.
1795.	Jacob Ide.
1796.	Abiathar Richardson.
1797–98.	Jacob Ide.
1799.	Abiathar Richardson.
1800–1.	Ebenezer Bacon.
1802.	Abiathar Richardson.
1803–4.	Ebenezer Bacon.
1805.	Ebenezer Daggett.
1806.	John Richardson, Jr.
1807.	Ebenezer Bacon.
1808.	Ebenezer Daggett.
1809.	Joel Read.
1810.	John Richardson, Jr.
1811.	Thomas French.
1812.	Joel Read.
1813.	John Richardson.
1814.	Joab Daggett.
1815.	Amos Ide?
1816.	Lemuel May.
1817.	Ebenezer Daggett.
1818.	Samuel Draper.
1819.	Lemuel May.
1820.	Ebenezer Daggett.
1821.	Wm. Blackington.[2]
1822.	Jacob Ide.
1823.	Ebenezer Daggett.
1824.	Wm. Blackington.
1825.	Samuel Cushman.
1826.	Elkanah Briggs.
1827.	Ellis Blackington.
1828.	Samuel Cushman.
1829.	Elkanah Briggs.
	Artemas Stanley from March pro tem.
1830.	Ellis Blackington.
1831.	Samuel Cushman.
1832.	Elkanah Briggs.
1833.	Ellis Blackinton.
1834.	Lemuel May.
1835.	David E. Holman.
1836.	Elihu Daggett.
1837.	Lemuel May.
1838.	Moses Wilmarth.
1839.	George B. Richards.
1840.	Hartford Ide.
1841.	Willard Blackinton.
1842.	Calvin Richards.

[1] 1697 is the first year in which the record of a town clerk's name was found. For the preceding year — 1696 — it is stated on the book that one Mr. Henery Dorons or Derens, was "Clark to the House of Representatives." There is much irregularity in the early records, the minutes of the town meetings being copied here and there wherever space was found on the books, the chief aim being apparently to utilize every line of every page. Considerable difficulty was therefore encountered in trying to find the records of the annual meetings, and elections of officers. Records and minutes were copied by both selectmen and clerks, and as the latter was always one of the selectmen, the difficulty was for that reason increased. — EDITOR.

[2] Name frequently so spelt up to a somewhat recent date.

1843.	Lemuel May.
1844.	Harvey Claflin.
1845.	George Bacon.
1846.	Hartford Ide.
1847.	Willard Blackinton.
1848–51.	Handel N. Daggett.
1852–53.	Lyman W. Daggett.
1854.	Ward D. Cotton.
1855.	Nathan C. Luther.
1856–62.	Shepard W. Carpenter.
1863–64.	H. N. Richardson.
1865–66.	Willard Blackinton.
1867–72.	Nathan C. Luther.
1873–86.	Job B. Savery.
1887.[1]	John T. Bates.

LIST OF SELECTMEN.[2]

1696.
Israil Woodcock,
Thomas Tingley,
Samuel Titus.

1697.
Anthony Sprague,
Mr. John Woodcock,
Daniel Jencks,
Jonathan Fuller,
Thomas Tingley.

1698.
Anthony Sprague,
Jonathan Fuller,
Daniel Sheppeson,
Thomas Tingley,
Daniel Jencks.

1699.
Mr. John Woodcock,
Nicholas Ide,
John Lane,
Daniel Jencks.

1700–1.
Anthony Sprague,
Jonathan Fuller,
Thomas Tingley,
Daniel Jencks.

1702.
Joseph Ingraham,
Thomas Tingley,
Daniel Jencks,
Jonathan Fuller.

1703.
Anthony Sprague,[3]
Jonathan Fuller,
Thomas Tingley.

1704.
Anthony Sprague,
Jonathan Fuller,
Daniel Jencks.

1705.
John Follett,
William Slack,
Jonathan Fuller.

1706–7.
John Follett,
Jonathan Fuller,
Thomas Tingley.

1708.
John Denison,
Nicholas Ide,
Hezekiah Peck,
James Brown.

1709.
John Follett,
Nicholas Ide,
Jonathan Fuller.

1710.
John Follett,
Lieut. Nicholas Ide,
Hezekiah Peck.

1711.
John Follett,
Jonathan Fuller,
John French.

1712.
Joseph Brown,
Thomas Tingley,
John Follett,
Jonathan Fuller,
John French.

1713.
Joseph Brown,
Jeremiah Whipple,
Nicholas Ide,
Thomas Standley,
Noah Carpenter.

1714.
Joseph Brown,
John Follett,
Noah Carpenter.

1715.
Joseph Brown,
Noah Carpenter,
Jeremiah Whipple,
Thomas Tingley,
John Follett.

1716.
Deacon Daggett,
Hezekiah Peck,
John French,
Thomas Stanley,
John Foster,
Noah Carpenter.

1717–18.
John Foster,
Thomas Stanley,
Hezekiah Peck,
Noah Carpenter,
Thomas Tingley.

1719.
John Foster,
John Lount,
Jeremiah Whipple,
Daniel Peck,
Noah Carpenter.

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[1] Mr. Bates was elected to the office after the death of Mr. Savery, in October, 1886, and was reëlected at the next annual meeting in March, 1887. [Still continues.]

[2] This list is not complete, and is probably in some instances incorrect, because it was impossible to find the names of the full boards of selectmen as they were elected, they not being always fully recorded. It was also difficult to determine with accuracy who they were for each year, from the subsequent records, as they frequently made entries upon the books under their signatures after their terms of office apparently should have expired. For the year 1696 they were called assessors only, and but three names were found. — EDITOR.

[3] For a long period, four or five — including the clerk — were chosen. When but three appear the number is incomplete, the others not being found. Occasionally the board numbered six. — EDITOR.

1720.
Benj. Crabtree,
John French,
En. Dan. Read,
John Lount,
Elisha Peck,
Noah Carpenter (Prob.).

1721.
Probably the same, or
Noah Carpenter,
John Foster.
Jeremiah Whipple,
Thomas Tingley.

1722.
Noah Carpenter,
Thomas Stanley,
Daniel Peck,
John Fuller.
John Foster.

1723.
Hezekiah Peck,
Thomas Tingley,
John Fuller,
John Foster,
Thomas Stanley.

1724.
Capt. John Foster,
Noah Carpenter,
Capt. Dan'l Read,
Benjamin Crabtree,
Thomas Stanley,
(Samuel Tyler?)

1725.
Mr. Benj. Crabtree,
Capt. Brown,
Mr Anthony Sprague,
Job Bartlett,
Thomas Stanley.

1726–27.
Mr. Noah Carpenter,
Capt. Foster,
Capt. Read,
Samuel Day,
Thomas Stanley.

1728.
Deacon Daggett,
John Robins,
Samuel Tyler,
Thomas Willmarth,
En. Timothy Tingley,
Thomas Stanley.

1729.
Dea. Mayhew Daggett,
Mr. John French,
Penticost Blackinton,
Thomas Willmarth,
Thomas Stanley.

1730.
Samuel Bishop,
Deacon Daggett,
Mr. Noah Carpenter,
Thomas Wilmarth,
Thomas Stanley.

1731.
Benj. Day,
James Sweetland,
Dea. Mayhew Daggett,
Thomas Wilmarth,
Thomas Stanley.

1732.
Lieut. Samuel Tyler,
Mayhew Daggett,
Obadiah Fuller,
Thomas Wilmarth,
Thomas Stanley.

1733.
John French,
Beniah Barrows,
Thomas Wilmarth,
Capt. Daniel Read,
Thomas Stanley.

1734.
Probably the same.
Mr. Barrows' name was omitted.

1735–36.
Capt. Daniel Read,
John Ide,
Noah Carpenter,
Benajah Barrows,
Thomas Wilmarth.

1737.
Jonathan Fuller,
John Ide,
Lieut. Samuel Tyler,
Capt. Mayhew Daggett,
Thomas Wilmarth.

1738.
Benjamin Day,
Lt. Samuel Tyler,
Josiah Maxcy,
Capt. Mayhew Daggett,
Thomas Wilmarth.

1739.
Mayhew Daggett,
Hezekiah Peck,
Benj. Day,
Samuel Tyler,
Thomas Wilmarth.

1740.
Josiah Maxcy,
Eben'r Robinson,
Eng. Timothy Tingley,
Capt. Mayhew Daggett,
Thomas Wilmarth.

1741.[1]
Benjamin Day,
Samuel Tingley,
Jacob Newell.

1742–43.
Same as 1741.

1744.
Capt. Tingley,
Thos. Wilmarth,
Benj. Day,
Benj. Wise,
Jacob Newell.

1745.
Thomas Wilmarth,
Benj. Day,
Timothy Tingley,
Joseph Bishop,
Jacob Newell.

1746.
Josiah Maxcy,
Thomas Wilmarth,
Benj. Day,
Timothy Tingley,
Jacob Newell.

1747.
Timothy Tingley,
Samuel Tyler,
John Fisher,
Ichabod Ward,
Thomas Wilmarth.

[1] Three overseers were chosen separate from the selectmen. Three men were also chosen "to *serve* for the preservation of *Deer*."

1748.
Capt. Timothy Tingley,
Capt. Samuel Tyler,
Obadiah Carpenter,
Thomas Wilmarth,
John Robbins, Jr.

1749.
Hezekiah Peck,
Capt. Timothy Tingley,
Capt. Samuel Tyler,
Thomas Wilmarth,
John Robbins, Jr.

1750.
Capt. Samuel Tyler,
Timothy Tingley,
Benj. Day,
Thomas Wilmarth,
John Robbins, Jr.

1751.
Thomas Wilmarth,
Sam'l Tyler,
Benj. Day.

1752.
John Ide,
Jacob Newell,
Joseph Capron.

1753.
Benj. Day,
Joseph Capron,
John Ide,
Henery Sweet,
Samuel Tyler.

1754.
Benj. Day,
John Stearns,
Daniel Wilmarth,
Jacob Newell,
Jonathan Capron.

1755.
Benj. Day,
Dan'l Wilmarth,
Josiah Maxcy,
John Daggett,
Jacob Newell.

1756.
John Robbins, Jr.,
Jacob Newell,
Daniel Read,
Daniel Wilmarth,
Henry Sweet.

1757.
Alexander Foster,
Benj. Day, Jr.,
Josiah Maxcy
—— Willmarth?
Stephen Fuller.

1758.
Alexander Foster,
Japhet ? Bicknell,
Stephen Fuller.

1759.
Dea. Benj. Day,
John Daggett,
John Robbins, Jr.

1760.
Joseph Bicknell,
Stephen Fuller,
John Daggett,
John Robbins, Jr.

1761.
John Daggett,
Dea. Ebenezer Lane,
Stephen Fuller,
John Robbins, Jr.

1762.
Probably same.
Stephen Fuller's name not positive.

1763[1]-64.
Ebenezer Lane,
Justice John Daggett,
Stephen Fuller.

1765.
John Daggett,
Mr. Jonathan Day,
Stephen Fuller.

1766.
Ebenezer Lane,
Jonathan Day,
Henry Sweet.

1767.
Ensign Jacob Ide,
Ebenezer Lane,
Henry Sweet.

1768.
John Daggett,
Ebenezer Lane,
Jacob Ide.

1769-70.
Ephraim Newell,
Moses Wilmarth,
Jacob Ide.

1771.
Ebenezer Lane,
Johnathan Stanley,
Henry Sweet.

1772.
Moses Wilmarth,
Epnraim Newell,
Jacob Ide.

1773-74.
Capt. Jon. Standley,
Stephen Richardson,
Elisha May.

1775.
Same as 1773-74.

1776.
Elisha May,
Caleb Richardson,
Dea. Jon. Stanley.

1777-78.
Elisha May,
John Wilkinson,
Jonathan Stanley.

1779-80.
Elisha May,
Stephen Richardson,
Dea. Jon. Stanley.

1781.
Col. Elisha May,
Col. John Daggett,
Ebenezer Tyler.

1782.
Lieut. James Orne,
Moses Wilmarth,
Ebenezer Tyler.

1783.
Elisha May,
Moses Wilmarth,
Ebenezer Tyler.

1784.
Elisha May,
Ebenezer Tyler,
Stephen Richardson.

1785.
Mr. Jabez Gay, Jun.,
Capt. Moses Wilmarth,
Ebenezer Tyler.

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[1] From this time on only three selectmen appear to have been elected, with two or three exceptions.

1786.
Capt. Caleb Richardson,
Mr. Jabez Gay, Jr.,
Ebenezer Tyler.

1787.
John ——,
Stephen Fuller,
Caleb Richardson.

1788–91.
Elisha May,
Ebenezer Tyler,
Caleb Richardson.

1792–1800.
Jacob Ide,
Abiathar Richardson,
Ebenr Bacon (Maj.).

1801–2.
Joel Read,
Ebenezer Bacon,
Abiathar Richardson.

1803–5.
Jacob Ide,
Ebenezer Bacon,
Ebenezer Daggett.

1806.
Joel Read,
Eben'r Daggett,
John Richardson, Jr.

1807–8.
Ebenezer Bacon,
Eben'r Daggett,
Jacob Ide.

1809–10.
Joel Read, Esq.,
Capt. Thomas French,
John Richardson, Jr.

1811–12.
Thomas French,
Joel Read,
Wm. Everett.

1813.
Joab Daggett,
Joel Read,
John Richardson.

1814.
Jesse Richards,
Amos Ide,
Joab Daggett.

1815.
Ebenezer Daggett,
Jesse Richards,
Amos Ide.

1816.
Ebenr Daggett,
Jesse Richards,
Lemue May

1817–20.
Samuel Draper,
Ebenezer Daggett,
Lemuel May

1821–23.
Jacob Ide,
Wm. Blackinton,
Ebenezer Daggett.

1824.
Wm. Blackinton,
Elkanah Briggs,
Saml Cushman.

1825–33.
Elkanah Briggs,
Samuel Cushman,
Ellis Blackinton.

1834.
Lemuel May,
Elkanah Briggs,
Ellis Blackinton.

1835.
Willard Blackinton,
Capt. Elihu Daggett,
Lemuel May
David E. Holman.

1836.
Moses Wilmarth,
Lemuel May,
Elihu Daggett.

1837.
Moses Wilmarth,
Henry H. Brown,
Lemuel May.

1838.
H. H. Brown,
Hartford Ide,
Moses Wilmarth.

1839.
George B. Richards,
Moses Wilmarth,
Hartford Ide.

1840–41.
George B. Richards,
Hartford Ide,
Col. Willard Blackinton.

1842.
Lemuel May, Esq.,
Calvin Richards,
Willard Blackinton.

1843–44.
Lemuel May,
William Everett.

1845–46.
Harvey Claflin,
Hartford Ide,
George Bacon.
Harvey Claflin,

1847.
Willard Blackinton,
George Bacon,
Hartford Ide.

1848.
Handel N. Daggett,
Hartford Ide,
Willard Blackinton.

1849–50.
Hartford Ide,
H. N. Daggett,[1]
Gardner Dunham.

1851–52.
Elkanah Briggs,
Joseph W. Capron,
Lyman W. Daggett.

1853.
Ezekiel Bates,
Joseph G. Albro,
J. W. Capron.

1854.
Geo. B. Richards,
Hartford Ide,
Joseph G. Albro.

1855.
Wheaton Briggs,
Hartford Ide,
Thomas A. Barden.

[1] Both H. N. and L. W. Daggett seem to have served three years as town clerks, and from 1853 on, three selectmen were chosen, besides the clerk, with the exception of the years 1863–64–65, and 1851–52–53–54–55.

1856.
Hartford Ide,
Wheaton Briggs,
George Price.

1857.
Elisha G. May,
J. W. Capron,
George Price.

1858–59.
Samuel M. Holman,
George Price,
Elisha G. May.

1860.
Thomas A. Barden,
S. M. Holman,
Elisha G. May.

1861.
H. N. Daggett,
A. H. Robinson,
Lewis L. Read.

1862.
H. N. Daggett,
A. H. Robinson,
Joseph A. Perry.

1863–64.
H. N. Richardson,
A. H. Robinson,
J. A. Perry.

1865.
Willard Blackinton,
A. H. Robinson,
J. A. Perry.

1866.
Willard Robinson,
A. H. Robinson,
J. A. Perry.

1867.
Willard Blackinton,
A. H. Robinson,
J. A. Perry.

1868–69.
Gardner C. Wright,
John Thacher,
David B. Wellman.

1870–71.
Gardner C. Wright,
Elisha G. May,
George N. Crandall.

1872.
Elisha G. May,
J. G. Barden,
A. B. Carpenter.

1873–74.
E. G. May,
T. A. Barden,
A. T. Wales.

1875–76.
G. M. Horton,
D. S. Hall,
H. C. Read.

1877.
D. S. Hall,
S. P. Lathrop,
A. M. Everett.

1878–79.
S. P. Lathrop,
G. C. Wright,
G. N. Crandall.

1880.
S. P. Lathrop,
B. Porter, Jr.,
G. N. Crandall.

1881–84.
Job B. Savery,
S. P. Lathrop,
B. Porter, Jr.

1885.
Job B. Savery,
Charles T. Guild,
Charles E. Jordan.

1886.
C. T. Guild,
Frank I. Babcock,
Henry K. W. Allen.

1887.
C. T. Guild,
F. I. Babcock,
Gamaliel B. Draper.

NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH, 1887.

Selectmen and
Overseers of the Poor.
Charles T. Guild, Gamaliel B. Draper, Stephen Stanley.
Town Clerk.
Patrick F. Grady.
Town Treasurer.
Arthur E. Codding.

ATTLEBOROUGH, 1887.

Selectmen.
Daniel H. Smith, Samuel P. Lathrop.
Overseer of the Poor.
Daniel H. Smith.
Town Treasurer.
John T. Bates.[1]

John Willson was the first Surveyor found, in 1701. Anthony Sprague held the office

[1] These officers were nominated at the first caucuses held shortly after the division took place. The town meetings were held August 13, 1887. Mr. Bates was also town clerk.

frequently, at an early date, first in 1717, and John Foster in 1724. Nicholas Peck was for many years Justice of the Peace, and most of the early deeds are acknowledged before him.[1]

GRADUATES AT BROWN UNIVERSITY FROM THIS TOWN.

Graduated.[2]

1776. PRESTON MANN, A.M. *See sketch of Mann family, Chap. XV.*

1783. OTHNIEL TYLER, A.M., son of John Tyler, Lawyer, Sudbury, Mass.

1787. JOHN MILTON MANN. *See sketch of Mann family.*

1787. JONATHAN MAXCY, S.T.D., President of Brown University, Providence, R. I., Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., and Columbia College, Columbia, S. C. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1788. JESSE BLACKINTON, son of Peter Blackinton, became a resident of Ashtabula, county of Ashtabula, Ohio, where he was in 1834.

1788. WILLIAM MAY, son of Elisha May, born Jan. 26th, 1764, student of law, died July 12th, 1790, in the 27th year of his age.

1789. PAUL DRAPER, A.M., son of Stephen Draper, born Sept. 19th, 1767, entered on board an American man-of-war, died in 1800, as recorded on town books.

1790. AARON DRAPER, son of Josiah Draper, born Nov. 29th, 1764, never studied a learned profession, — settled in Providence, R. I., where he died in 1818.

1802. GARDNER DAGGETT, A.M., son of Elijah Daggett, born Dec. 20th, 1782. Lawyer, Providence, R. I., where he died in 1821.

1802. MILTON MAXCY, son of Levi Maxcy, born Jan. 1st, 1782. Lawyer in Beaufort, South Carolina, where he died of yellow fever in 1818.

1803. JASON SPRAGUE, A.M., son of John Sprague, was, for some time, Preceptor of the High School in Newport, R. I. He died in the United States army in 1825.

1804. VIRGIL MAXCY. Solicitor of the United States Treasury. *See biographical sketch.*

1807. LORENZO BISHOP, son of Zephaniah Bishop, born Aug. 20th, 1785, student of law, died in Attleborough, May 26th, 1809, æt. 23.

1809. JACOB IDE, A.M., REV. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1809. WILLIAM TYLER, A.M., REV., son of Ebenezer Tyler, minister at Weymouth, subsequently at South Hadley, Mass.

1811. BENJAMIN W. COZZENS, A.M., son of Benjamin Cozzens. Lawyer at Pawtucket, subsequently a resident of Providence, R. I., and still later removed to New York.

1811. HARTFORD SWEET, A.M., son of Gideon Sweet, born Oct. 30th, 1790, had not finished studying his profession — the ministry — when he died at Richmond, Va., April 2d, 1818, æt. 27.[3]

1817. EVERETT BOLKCOM, son of Jacob Bolkcom, born September, 1796. Lawyer, Attleborough, died Dec. 19th, 1823, æt. 27.

1821. JAMES ORMSBEE BARNEY, REV., son of Cromwell Barney, of Providence, R. I. Minister at Seekonk Centre, Mass., where he died.

1821. MOSES THACHER, A.M., REV., son of —— Thacher. Minister in North Wrentham, Mass.

1822. PRESTON CUMMINGS, REV. *See sketch of Cummings family, Chap. XVI.*

1822. HENRY H. F. SWEET, REV., son of Henry Sweet, born Nov. 1st, 1796. Minister in Palmer, Mass., died Feb. 20th, 1827, æt. 30.

1822. JOHN WILDER, A.M., REV., son of John Wilder. Minister in Charlton, later in Concord, Mass., — died in March, 1844.

1823. BENONI ALLEN, REV. Preacher in Ohio, — died in 1867.

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[1] One Anthony Perry early took up lands in Attleborough, and settled here, but on account of subsequent changes in the lines — though not in his residence — he died in Rehoboth.

[2] This list includes those who entered college, and left before completing the entire course. Such facts as could be ascertained relating to them are given.

[3] The following touching reference to this well beloved son may be found in the will of the father: "My son, Hartford Sweet, deceased, having left no heirs, I cannot otherwise remember him in this my last will, than with regret in view of his untimely death."

1824. IRA BARROWS, M.D. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1825. HERMAN BOURNE, M.D., son of Andrew Bourne. Physician in Boston, Mass., where he died.

1825. WILLIAM STILLMAN STANLEY, M.D. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1825. SAMUEL TYLER WILDER, son of John Wilder. Lawyer in Rochester, N. Y., where he died.

1826. JASON BABCOCK BLACKINTON, A.M., son of William Blackinton. Lawyer in Holden, Mass., subsequently a teacher in Ohio.

1826. JOHN DAGGETT, A.M. Lawyer. *See biographical sketch.* Author of this work.

1832. SALMON CARPENTER PERRY, son of Josial Perry. Preacher, — died at New York in 1872.

1837. JOHN SHEPARD INGRAHAM.

1838. EZEKIEL GILMAN ROBINSON, D.D. President of Rochester Theological Seminary, and of Brown University. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1844. RICHARD CUSHMAN, REV. Died in 1849.

1844. ISAAC DRAPER, M.D.

1844. GEORGE NELSON BLISS. In college one year.

1847. JAMES FLETCHER BLACKINTON. Teacher in Boston, Mass.

1849. THOMAS DREW ROBINSON. Lawyer.

1851. BRAINARD WAYLAND BARROWS, D.D. Trustee of the University.

1852. GEORGE AUGUSTUS ALLEN. Teacher in Missouri.

1854. SAMUEL CUSHMAN. In college three years.

1854. WILLIAM WATSON WATERMAN. In college three years.

1855. CHARLES PHELPS, M.D., son of Thaddeus Phelps. Pursued his medical studies in New York City, and continues his profession there. He is president of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital, visiting surgeon at St. Vincent's Hospital, president of the Police Department Medical Board, and was nominated by Governor Hill as Health Officer of the port. His success has been great, and he has a very large practice.

1857. WILLIAM ALBERT WHITE.

1858. COMFORT EDWIN BARROWS.

1861. FRANK HERBERT CARPENTER.

1862. JOSIAH NELSON CUSHING, a distinguished missionary in Burmah. He was the son of Alpheus Cushing, a member of the Baptist church at North Attleborough, and there ordained as a foreign missionary. He still continues in the active and successful duties of his mission.

1864. HENRY CLARKE BOWEN.

1864. SEABURY WARREN BOWEN, M.D. Fall River.

1868. GEORGE ROSWELL READ. Lawyer.

1868. JOHN MAYHEW DAGGETT. Lawyer, Marianna, Ark.

1870. EUGENE ELLIS THOMAS, REV.

1870. ADONIRAM JUDSON CUSHING, brother of Josiah Cushing, the missionary.

1873. ALVIN GROVER SADLER, educated a lawyer, not now in practice.

1876. DAVID EMORY HOLMAN, M.D. *See sketch of Holman family, Chap. XVI.*

1876. EDWARD OTIS STANLEY. Business, New York City.

1880. RICHARD BARTLETT ESTEN.

1880. WILLIS HERMANN STREETER. In college three years.

1880. OLIN FISK GLEASON. In college two years.

1880. EDGAR PERRY. Editor of "Attleborough Chronicle." [Retired from the "Chronicle" in 1888. Held a position on a daily paper in Cleveland, Ohio, and later on the "Boston Herald." Has now (1894) in addition a position on the "New York Herald," being general news agent for the New England States for that paper.]

1881. AUGUSTUS LAWRENCE HOLMES. In college one year.

1882. JOHN AUGUSTINE SANFORD. Teacher. [Professor of Greek in Minneapolis College. Has recently received the honorary degree of PH.D., from that institution. 1894.]

1883. IRA BARROWS, son of H. F. Barrows. Member of the firm of H. F. Barrows & Co. Residence in New York.

1887. FRANK WILLIAMS CARPENTER, son of A. B. Carpenter, of this town, a graduate of the class of 1889. [Graduated. Resides in Attleboro'.]

GRADUATES AND STUDENTS AT AMHERST COLLEGE FROM THIS TOWN.

1832. SAMUEL HUNT, REV. *See sketch of Hunt family, Chap. XVI.*

1856. SAMUEL TYLER READ. In college one year. Graduated from Union College in 1860.

1859. JOSEPH OSMOND TIFFANY. *See sketch of Tiffany family, Chap. XVII.*

1860. JOSEPH MASON, born Nov. 1st, 1836. Attended medical lectures in Boston subsequent to graduation. Died Sept. 23d, 1862, while a medical cadet at Mill Creek Hospital, Va. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

1862. FRANK DEAN, son of Lyman W. Dean. Resides in Attleborough.

1862. OTIS CAPRON NEWCOMB, son of Joseph Newcomb, born Dec. 26th, 1838. Attended medical lectures in Boston, taught school in Worcester, Mass., continuing his medical studies there at the same time with Dr. Clark. Died here Nov. 10th, 1865, before his studies were completed. Buried at Woodlawn Cemetery.

1875. FRANK IRVING BABCOCK, son of Horatio N. Babcock, born Dec. 26th, 1851. Lawyer, — practising in Attleborough.

1885. ERWIN ALDEN TUCKER, son of Almond Tucker. Pursuing medical studies at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York. [Now practising there. Sloane Maternity Hospital.]

GRADUATES AT YALE UNIVERSITY FROM THIS TOWN.

1748. NAPHTALI DAGGETT, D.D. President of Yale College. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1761. PELATIAH TINGLEY, A.M., REV., son of Timothy Tingley. He was a Baptist preacher, and was settled in Sanford, Maine. About 1780, he became a seceder from the prevailing sect of Baptists, and was the first minister who united with Elder Benjamin Randall, the founder of the new sect, usually denominated Arminian, or Free-Will Baptists, who rejected the leading doctrines of Calvinism.[1]

1762. PHILIP DAGGETT, son of Ebenezer Daggett, and brother of Naphtali Daggett, born Sept. 11th, 1739. He settled and died in New Haven.

1771. HENRY DAGGETT, son of Elder Elihu Daggett, born April 9th, 1741. He settled in New Haven, where he was a merchant. He became a police magistrate, alderman, president of the Board of Health, etc. He died there Sept. 24th, 1830.

1783. DAVID DAGGETT, LL.D. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, United States Senator, etc. *See biographical sketch, Chap. XV.*

1847. EDWARD SHAW, son of Captain Daniel Shaw. Entered college in 1843; graduated in 1847 in a class of 125, the largest class up to that time to graduate from that college. In 1853 entered the service of the United States Government, and became an examiner in the Patent Office at Washington, remaining until the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion in 1861. In 1867 was appointed to a position in the National Medical Library, in the office of the Surgeon General of the United States Army. [1894, still retains that position.]

1887. HERVEY RICHARDS FRANKLIN, a member of the present senior class. [A graduate of the class of 1888. Has removed from town.]

There have been graduates from this town, probably from other New England colleges, and perhaps from colleges in other parts of the country. A full list of their names has not been obtained. Among them was: —

JOHN BARROWS, who graduated in 1766 at Harvard College. He was the son of John Barrows. He married his wife in Cambridge, and settled as a schoolmaster in Dighton, Mass. He pursued the even tenor of his way, unambitious of honors. He was a distinguished teacher in his day and educated many of the leading men of that vicinity, his being the only classical school in that part of the country, until the establishment of the Bristol Academy at Taunton. He joined the Episcopal church at Taunton — which then included Dighton — founded by the

[1] See Benedict's Hist. Bap., vol. ii, p. 410, where he is erroneously said to be a graduate of Rhode Island College.

famous Thomas Coram, his name being on the list of ninety members in 1787. He died in Dighton July 25, 1816, in his eighty-first year. He left many manuscript poems.

WALTER E. HAYWARD, son of Charles E. Hayward, graduated at Harvard College in 1883. He is a member of the firm of Hayward & Sweet, and resides in Attleborough.

[Since the division there have been graduates from town at some of the colleges above mentioned. Ernest M. Bliss, Amherst, 1893; Edmund W. Clap and Arthur R. Perry, Harvard, 1892, both now in Harvard Medical School; J. Earl Sheffield and George Sheffield, Yale, 1894, the latter from Sheffield Scientific School. Herbert E. Bliss graduated at the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1888, and Clinton E. Bliss in 1890. Arthur G. Randall graduated at Tufts College in 1892 and is pursuing medical studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and Curtis Read graduated in 1894. "Hal" Dunham is a graduate of Tufts Divinity School. These include those from both North Attleborough and Attleborough, and there are students from both towns — or will enter this year — in Amherst, Brown, and Tufts. There have been students in Holy Cross College, at Smith College, and other advanced institutions of learning. At the latter Miss Marian French graduated in 1894, and there are several young ladies still pursuing studies there. William H. Pond, now practising law in North Attleborough, is a graduate recently of Yale Law School, and Philip E. Brady, of Attleborough, of Harvard Law School. There are no doubt others whose names have not been obtained.]

NAMES OF PHYSICIANS IN ATTLEBOROUGH.[1]

Dr. Joseph Daggett, of Rehoboth; Dr. Joseph Hewes; Dr. Abijah Everett; Dr. Bezaleel Mann; Dr. Richard Bowen, of Rehoboth; Dr. Joseph Bacon; Dr. Comfort Fuller, son of Noah Fuller. He removed to Harford, Penn., where he died in June, 1800, and was among the first buried in that town. Dr. Comfort Capron, surgeon in the Revolutionary War; Dr. Thomas Stanley, Dr. S. B. Parris, Dr. Lemuel Fuller, Dr. Seba Carpenter, Dr. Thaddeus Phelps, Dr. James W. Foster, Dr. Phineas Savery, Dr. —— Newman, and others.

PHINEAS SAVERY was born in Wareham, Mass., April 5, 1800. In September, 1824, he graduated at Brown University, and three years later, in 1827, he received his medical diploma from Harvard College. In September of the latter year he commenced his practice in this town. He was for many years the only physician in the east part of the town. He was prominent in his profession, a reliable doctor, and as a man greatly respected and beloved. He was three times married; his first wife was Hope Tobey; the second, Nancy Messenger; the third, Sally A. Bailey, and the mother of all his children, with one exception.

Dr. Savery died May 19, 1853, and was buried in the Old Kirk Yard. His character and life are summed up in the beautiful and appropriate inscription on his tombstone: —

"His memory is in the hearts of the people."

THADDEUS PHELPS was born in Windsor, Vt., July 21, 1809. He was a graduate of Dartmouth College and pursued his studies of medicine in Woodstock, Vt., where he graduated in that department. Immediately after his graduation he went to Tioga County, Penn., where he commenced the practice of medicine. Subsequently he removed to Milford, this State, and later to Cumberland, R. I., where he was in partnership with Dr. Walcott. He came to this town in 1838, while still a young man, and built up for himself a large and lucrative practice. He was for quite a long period the one physician of the north part of the town and therefore for many years the oldest practitioner.

Dr. Phelps attained a considerable degree of eminence in his profession and was a physician upon whose skill great reliance could be placed. During the Civil War he held the position of surgeon at the Portsmouth Grove Hospital, Rhode Island, for some time. About 1865 he met with a severe accident, which resulted very seriously. To the surprise of everyone he rallied from it and resumed his practice; but it was often remarked that no one but Dr. Phelps would have had the courage and determination necessary to live through such an experience. He

[1] The following names do not form a complete list of all the physicians who have resided in town, but the Editor has added to the former list, as she was able, and gives such facts relating to some of the more recent ones as it was possible to obtain.

was for the remainder of his life partially, and to himself painfully, disabled, but he continued his practice for six or seven years, until about eight years before he died. The accident was the predisposing cause of the disease which caused his death, which occurred May 30, 1879.

He was twice married. His first wife was Mary Guild, of Woodstock, Vt.; the second, Mary Watson, of Newport, R. I. Five children survive: Charles, Fannie, and Mary, by the first wife, and Helen and Isabel by the second.

JAMES W. FOSTER was born in Southbridge, this State, November 15, 1813. His common-school education was obtained at Quechee, Vt., to which place his parents removed when he was ten years old. He studied medicine first at the Vermont Medical College at Woodstock, and later at the Berkshire Medical School at Pittsfield, Mass., where he graduated. He commenced his practice in Foxborough, where he remained something over twelve years, and then in 1854 he came to North Attleborough, where he continued in active practice for thirty years. He was of the homœopathic school, was a successful physician, and one who gained not only the confidence of his patients and acquaintances, but their highest esteem. His death was a public loss and caused a general and sincere mourning throughout the entire community in which he lived.

June 22, 1839, he married Harriet Draper Richards, daughter of Ira Richards, of North Attleborough. They had four children, three of whom are living, and in North Attleborough: Mrs. E. E. Barrows, Dr. James R. Foster, and Mrs. W. G. Clark. Dr. Foster died in September, 1885, and Mrs. Foster some years previous to that time. [Mrs. Barrows is also dead.]

NAMES OF REGULAR PHYSICIANS NOW PRACTISING IN ATTLEBOROUGH (1887).

Dr. Edward Sanford, Dr. John R. Bronson, Dr. James R. Foster, Dr. Frederick L. Burden, Dr. George Mackie, Dr. Joseph B. Gerould, Dr. Thomas P. McDonough, Dr. Henry S. Kilby, Dr. Herbert C. Bullard, Dr. Charles S. Holden, Dr. George K. Roberts, Dr. J. W. Battershall, Dr. Arthur V. Rounds, Dr. Laura V. G. Mackie, Dr. Mary W. Battershall.

EDWARD SANFORD was born in Raynham, this State, in 1825. He was educated partly at Bristol Academy, Taunton, and partly by private instructors. He graduated at the Harvard Medical School in 1852 and during the same year came to this town and commenced the practice of medicine in the East village. In 1856 he visited Europe for the combined purposes of study and travel and since that time has continued to practise here uninterruptedly. He is the oldest practitioner in town, the oldest of the three leading practitioners of his day here, as he preceded both Dr. Foster and Dr. Bronson by a few years. He has reached a high stand in his profession, especially in the school he adopted — the homœopathic.

In 1855 he married Olive A. Thompson, daughter of Archibald Thompson, then of this town. Their children are: John A., Caroline E., who married Dr. Charles S. Holden, now of this town, and Mary W., who married Dr. W. L. Elliot, also of this town, in the practice of dentistry. Mrs. Sanford died July 18, 1887.[1]

JOHN R. BRONSON was born in Middleborough, Conn. His medical education he obtained at the Berkshire Medical College at Pittsfield, this State. In 1852 he came to Pawtucket, then in Massachusetts, where he remained in practice for four years. In 1856 he came to East Attleborough and settled. In the spring of 1862 he went south as a surgeon in the Union army. He had charge at first of the Union Hospital at Williamsburg and later of the one at Fortress Monroe for some months. Since then, until within the past few years, he continued his professional labors in this and adjoining towns without interruption. He had for many years a large practice which extended over a radius of fifteen or twenty miles. His is the old school of practice, and he has always been a reliable and successful physician. Owing to the state of his health he has relinquished a large portion of his practice, but continues to be, as he always has been, actively interested in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the town. He was one of the most ardent opposers of division. He was at one time connected in business with the late William D. Wilmarth.

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[1] July 8, 1889, Dr. Sanford was married to Miss Irene Fuller, of Washington, D. C. Her father was the late Pliny B. Fuller, of this town, son of Mr. Zelotes Fuller.

He married Kate Wheelock, daughter of Godfrey Wheelock, formerly of this town. Their only living children are two daughters, Emma and Kate Louise Bronson.

DR. JAMES M. SOLOMON, well known as the "Indian Doctor," has for many years been a resident in the east part of the town and has had a large practice in his specialties, — medicines prepared from roots and herbs, after his own receipts. He had an office at one time on Benefit Street, Providence, R. I.

Two of Dr. Solomon's sons, James M., Jr.,[1] and William B., are also practising after the same methods. [Dr. Solomon, Sr., has since died.]

NAMES OF LAWYERS IN ATTLEBOROUGH.

EVERETT BOLKCOM, — a native of this town, and so far as known, the first of his profession here — must have commenced his practice about 1820, in the east part of the town. He died in 1823. About the same time Ezra Bassett practised this profession here for a short time, residing in the same part of the town. Next in point of time was John Daggett, the author of this work, who continued in practice in East Attleborough, about fifty years. Simeon E. Bowen was for many years a successful practitioner of the law in North Attleborough. J. Sanford was there also for some years, but finally removed from town. James Brown, and E. P. Brown resided and practised in that part of the town for some time. The former is now in Taunton; — the latter removed to Boston.

The lawyers at present practising in town are Joseph E. Pond, Jr., Frederic B. Byram, Chester A. Reed, A. E. Bragg, in North Attleborough, and George A. Adams, Frank I. Babcock, and Philip E. Brady, in East Attleborough, 1887.

For many years the inhabitants of the western and southern portions of the town have lived with a fair degree of health and material prosperity, without either a resident physician or lawyer.

POSTMASTERS IN ATTLEBOROUGH IN 1887.

Burrill Porter, Jr., North Attleborough; Philip E. Brady, East Attleborough; Frank W. Miller, South Attleborough; William H. Smith, Dodgeville; Byron R. Hill, Hebronville; W. A. Vickery, Briggs' Corner; James B. Parsons, Attleborough Falls.

STATISTICS.

At the time of its incorporation the town contained upwards of thirty families, which, if we assumed only six as the number in each family (which is probably too low for that period) would make one hundred and eighty inhabitants.

In 1790	the number of	inhabitants	was	2,166
In 1800	,,	,,	,,	2,480
In 1810	,,	,,	,,	2,716
In 1820	,,	,,	,,	3,055
In 1830	,,	,,	,,	3,215

This latter number was exclusive of twelve families, containing about fifty persons, which, subsequent to 1820, were set off to Wrentham, by the establishment of a new boundary line between the towns, or rather, by restoring it to the original line.

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[1] Dr. Solomon has an establishment at 75 Court Street, Boston, called the Botanical Institute. Within a few years he has purchased the old Noah or Arza Blanding farm on the "Ridge Hill road," where he contemplates having a large sanitarium with park grounds. The old house has been repaired, new barns built, considerable ground cleared, whose stones have been utilized in building massive walls, a fine entrance drive has been started, a greenhouse erected, and much accomplished in other ways toward improving the place. The foundations of the sanitarium are already laid. Near by there is a clear spring whose waters, it is said, contain some medicinal qualities beneficial in certain classes of disease. Be that as it may, the spot is capable of being made attractive to invalids, for its surface is well diversified with little hills, giving pretty views in all directions; and the quiet of real country with pure air and pleasant surroundings can but prove advantageous. This portion of the town has always had a rather barren and unsightly aspect, intensified by the continued neglect of many years. It is therefore with interest that people watch the progress of the projected plans for redeeming some of these waste lands and beautifying a sterile region.

A TABLE OF THE POPULATION OF THIS TOWN IN 1830, WITH THE DIFFERENT AGES, ETC.

	Under 5.	5-10.	10-15.	15-20.	20-30.	30-40.	40-50.	50-60.	60-70.	70-80.	80-90.	Colored.
Males.....	198	162	163	170	253	189	142	82	70	31	8	9
Females.....	209	182	186	204	356	251	151	115	75	32	15	2

Whole number of females	1,758
,, ,, males	1,457
Excess of females over males	301
Number of inhabitants in Bristol County	49,592
,, ,, Massachusetts	610,408
,, white males in ,,	294,685
,, colored males in ,,	3,360
,, white females in ,,	308,674
,, colored ,, ,,	3,685
Total males in Massachusetts	298,045
,, females in ,,	312,359
Excess of females in Massachusetts	14,314

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN UNITED STATES.

Males, white and colored, in 1830	6,521,409
Females ,, ,, 1830	6,333,481
Excess of males	187,928
Total	12,854,890
Seamen, etc.	11,130
Total population of United States	12,866,020
Population of United States in 1880	50,155,783
,, Massachusetts in 1880	1,783,085
,, Bristol County in 1880	139,040
,, Attleborough in 1880	11,110

The increase in the population of the country in the fifty years between 1830 and 1880 was nearly fourfold; in the State nearly threefold; in the county nearly threefold; — over two and four fifths — and in the town, over threefold, — nearly three and one half.

The whole area of the town, according to the survey ordered by the Legislature, is twenty-nine thousand acres; by valuation twenty-six thousand, — actual valuation twenty-six thousand, two hundred and eighty-three. When Attleborough included Cumberland, it must have contained nearly sixty thousand acres.

Number acres of woodland about 1830	2,158
,, ,, ,, fresh meadow about 1830	1,767
,, ,, ,, tillage lands ,, ,, including orchards	1,205
,, ,, ,, pasture lands	4,703
,, ,, ,, unimproved and unimprovable [1] land	12,740
,, ,, covered with water	360
,, of dwelling-houses about 1830	409
,, ,, barns	345
,, ,, tan-houses	1
,, ,, shops	28
,, ,, stores	12
,, ,, grist-mills	8
,, ,, saw-mills	7
,, ,, cotton factories	8

[1] This is a large estimate, doubtless more than truth will warrant. There is strictly but little land in this town which is absolutely *unimprovable* for purposes of agriculture, for tillage or grazing. There is, however, a large quantity which is not actually under *constant* cultivation; but there is only a small proportion of this which is not occasionally cultivated.

These last contained about 13,000 spindles, and 350 power looms. There are now in town four cotton factories; three of these together have 52,008 spindles, and 1,168 looms; the fourth — where cotton yarns are made — has 5,040 spindles.

The number of shops has doubtless more than doubled, but the exact figures would give no adequate conception of the increase of manufacturing, as the space occupied by the buildings has been enlarged out of all proportion to the number erected. In 1886 the number of dwelling-houses was 2,115, but the number of barns has not probably increased proportionally; the number of tan-houses remains the same; grist and saw-mills have decreased in number, and stores have probably increased to six or seven times the number above mentioned.

The following table, partially a repetition, shows the increase in the population of the town, for each ten years, from the first United States census in 1790 to the year 1880.

In 1790	2,160	In 1840	3,585
1800	2,480	1850	4,200
1810	2,716	1860	6,047
1820	3,055	1870	6,769
1830	3,215	1880	11,110

Population of Bristol County in 1885	158,491
Whole number of voters „ „	33,036
Population of Attleborough in 1885	13,175
Whole number of voters „ „	3,049
Number of polls (male) in 1886	3,253
„ „ (female) in 1886[1]	81
Total „ „ „	3,334
Valuation of real estate in 1886	$4,945,357.00
„ „ personal property in 1886	1,511,242.00
Total	$6,456,599.00

These figures show an increase of twelve hundred thousand dollars in four years on the total valuation.

The last report of the selectmen, assessors, etc., of the old "Town of Attleborough," was for the year ending July 31, 1887, the time of the division. A few of its figures are given.

Valuation of real estate, North District	$2,464,925.00
„ „ „ „ East „	2,040,370.00
„ „ „ „ South „	617,980.00
Total value of real estate	$5,123,275.00
Valuation of personal estate, North District	$760,300.00
„ „ „ „ East „	700,555.00
„ „ „ „ South „	182,210.00
Total value personal estate	$1,643,065.00
Total valuation May 1, 1887	$6,766,340.00
„ number of polls, (males,)	3,360
„ „ „ „ (females,)	30
Number of horses	1,066
„ „ cows	1,041
„ „ sheep	26
„ „ other neat cattle	207
„ „ swine	113
„ „ dwelling-houses	2,214
„ „ acres of land	26,283

[1] The number of females who registered.

Total valuation of land	$1,690,602.00
,, ,, ,, buildings	3,432,673.00
	$5,123,275.00
Tax raised on real and personal estate	$115,741.32
Polls	6,785.00
Overlay	6,052.80
Total	$128,529.12
North District	$61,046.05
East District	52,383.65
South District	15,099.42
Total	$128,529.12

Rate eighteen dollars per thousand.

The selectmen of the two towns together agreed upon the following division of the assets and liabilities of the old town, and the apportionment of the town debt.

School property in town of Attleborough, Total valuation	$92,863.00
Other property	7,883.00
Total	$100,746.00
School property in town of North Attleborough, Total valuation	$79,689.00
Other property	1,735.00
Total	$81,424.00
Total appraised assets	$182,170.00
Cash assets	136,227.36
Total	$318,397.36
Uncollected taxes	$37,013.03
Due on Pauper account	977.91
	$37,990.94
Liabilities	$232,349.10
Valuation of Attleborough	$3,077,524.00
,, ,, North Attleborough	3,379,075.00
Total ,, ,, both towns	$6,456,599.00
Proportion of Attleborough's liabilities	$110,748.69
Proportion of North Attleborough's liabilities	121,600.41
Total	$232,349.10
Attleborough's proportion of appraised assets	$86,830.94
Attleborough's proportion of cash assets	64,932.48
Total	$151,763.42
North Attleborough's proportion of appraised assets	$95,339.06
North Attleborough's proportion of cash assets	71,294.88
Total	$166,633.94
Appraised property in Attleborough	$100,746.00
Attleborough's proportion of total appraised property	86,830.94
Excess of appraised property in Attleborough	$13,915.06
Amount of undivided assets	$37,990.94

STATEMENT.

Town of Attleborough in account with the Town of North Attleborough.

Dr.

To North Attleborough's proportion of liabilities	$121,600.41
Cash, A. E. Codding, Treasurer	20,809.15
Pauper account	592.91
	$143,002.47

Cr.

By excess of appraised property	$13,915.06
Proportion of cash assets	71,294.88
Cash	305.06
Amount due from North Attleborough to balance account	57,487.48
	$143,002.47

Signed

C. T. Guild,
Frank I. Babcock,
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

For the year ending in March, 1887, there were 357 births. Of these 194 were males and 163 were females. There were 113 of foreign parentage; 151 by foreign father; 144 by foreign mother; 98 of Irish parents; 88 of Canadian parents; 34 of English parents; 31 of German parents; 5 of colored parents, and 1 pair of twins. The greatest number of births in any month was in October, when there were 35.

From January 1, 1887, to the time of the division there were 139 deaths. In January, 21; February, 26; March, 20; April, 16; May, 20; June, 13; July, 23. Several of these were unknown persons. During the entire year — from January 1 to December 31, 1887 — there were 205 deaths reported. Pneumonia, consumption, and apoplexy were the diseases which caused the greatest number of deaths, and from these there were 22, 19, and 13 respectively. Among the forty or more diseases represented in the health report for that year, diphtheria was wanting — the first time its omission had been possible since the establishment of a board of health in town.

The number of marriages from January 1 to August 1 was 79. In January there were 12; in February, 13; in March, 8; in April, 12; in May, 14; in June, 13; in July, 7. Quite a number of the brides and grooms were in these instances married for the second time, and in one case it was for each the third time. The ages ranged from 17 years, the age of the youngest bride, to 53 years, that of the oldest groom.

Records of the nature of those just given have been kept for only a few years with any degree of regularity or exactness; but if the birth statistics of this time could be compared with those of fifty years ago they would no doubt show a startling increase in the proportionate number of those of foreign or mixed parentage. Should this increase continue in the same ratio during the coming fifty years, what will be the result? The speculative question Who will the inhabitants of our town or two towns be? very naturally arises, and it asserts itself for the entire land equally — Who or what will the *American* nation then be?

CHAPTER XIX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AS has been seen by the ancient records, there were frequent disputes in the early days over boundary lines. One of these which lasted for many years was that between the colonies of Massachusetts and Plymouth.

The first commission appointed to ascertain the line was in 1640. William Bradford and Governor Edward Winslow acted for Plymouth, and John Endicott and Israel Stoughton for Massachusetts. They agreed upon the line as follows: From the mouth of "Bound Brook" (so named by them) with a direct line to "Accord Pond" (also so named) lying five or six miles from Weymouth, and from there in a straight line to a point three miles south from the southernmost point of Charles River. According to the author in his first edition these commissioners "commenced near the shore at a rock called Bound Rock in the middle of Accord Pond, which is in the line between Scituate and Cohasset, (once part of Hingham) intending to reach by a straight line the most northerly point of Plymouth Colony, on the easterly line of R. Island; but when they had arrived within about three miles they discovered that their course would carry them far to the South of the intended point. Instead of rectifying the whole line (as they should have done) they made an angle and took a new course so far north as to reach the true point." This was the cause of dispute, and from this time the controversy continued. The line was run five or six times. In 1664 there was an attempt to restore the true line, the commissioners then appointed agreeing that the previous one was incorrect because it was "wholly within Plymouth lands." This angle line took a large tract of land, including a part of Norton, Mansfield, and Wrentham, from Plymouth, or Old Colony.

The report of the commissioners who attempted to make the restoration in 1664 may prove of interest to some and is therefore given: —

Whereas the General Courts of the Colonies of Massachusetts and New Plymouth, in New England, did, (in order to the settlement of the bound line betwixt the said Colonies, that is, so much thereof as is hitherto undetermined) order, depute, and impower us, whose names are hereunto subscribed for the effecting thereof, as by that act of theirs recorded in the records of the respective Courts in each Colony may more fully appear, wee, the persons so intrusted and impowered, in pursuance of the service aforesaid, being all assembled at Dedham the 9th of the 3d month, commonly called May, anno 1664, did the day next ensuing travel together into the woods for the discovery of the Southernmost part of Charles River, which having found out, partly by our own view, and partly by the satisfying report of those present with us, (that had labored therein) we all mutually agreed upon the first station. Having measured three miles southerly of the southernmost part of the said River, we marked a tree, and from

thence a west line to Neetmock River, which by estimation, wee judged to be about five miles, in which line we went on the north side of a great pond, over a small parcel of coarse meadow, and on the southerly of which pond is an Indian plantation called by them Seenecheconet, and at the said Neetmock River we marked a black oak tree on four sides viz. with a M. L. on the north side and a P. on the south side, and several letters under each of these, and on the east we set in figures the date of the present year.

This tree so marked standeth on the side of a hill, over against which lieth, on the west side of the river, the north end of a parcel of coarse meadow; and having marked divers trees in this line, from thence we came back about three miles and a half past the tree first named to that station, which is east of this west line, where wee marked a white oak, in a plain full of trees, in the same manner we had marked the trees by the river aforesaid, at which place wee made an *angle*, and began an east northeast line to come to Accord Pond, in following of which we were cast more than half a mile to the southward of the middle of said pond (the bounds formerly settled) for the rectifying whereof wee having found the middle of said pond, wee marked there a black tree, as the *trees* formerly mentioned, which (with) letters and the date of the year, and so returned west southwest, southerly by marked trees, in that line up to a footpath that goeth from Weimouth to Bridgewater, on each side of which path, in the line, wee erected a heap of stones, and so thence to a maple tree, by a swamp side that brancheth to the north, and at a cart path that goeth from Braintree to Bridgewater, wee ended that line at a heap of stones on the west side of the path, and a great marked stake on the east; fynally, wee agreed that the line stretched from Accord Pond, upon such a course, and so marked, and so as above said, to the White-oak Angle Tree before mentioned; and from that oak Westerly to Neetmock River, as is before described, is and shall be accounted and reputed the true and settled bound line betwixt the Colonies of the Massachusetts and New Plymouth, and that the line by us first drawn and marked from the said Angle tree to Accord Pond shall not be understood to be the line of division, it being wholly within Plymouth lands. The length of the whole line is, by estimation, as wee judged, about 40 miles, according to the line before expressed, unto all which wee, the parties respectively entrusted and empowered, doe, each and every of us, mutually agree, concur and do hereby declare it to be our full and final determination, concerning the premises.

In witness whereof wee have hereunto set our hands and seals the 17th of the 3d mo. 1664.

Robert Studson.	Seal.
Constant Southworth.	Seal.
Jos. Winslow.	L. S.
Joshua Fisher.	L. S.
Roger Clap.	L. S.
Elea: Lusher.	L. S.

These names are elsewhere given as Robert Stetson, Constant Southworth, *Josias* Winslow, Jos. Fisher, Roger Clap, *Eleazer* Lusher. The latter are doubtless correct.

The controversy which followed the laying of the erroneous line was carried on at great expense. Taunton North Purchase and Rehoboth North Purchase united in trying to rectify the line, but Massachusetts held them strictly to the compact of 1660, though the error was evident.

Upon one occasion when the line was being redrawn it was ordered by one of the counties "that the treasurer of the County pay unto Capt. Wm. Hudson, out of the next levy, the sum of nineteen pounds, which was expended by the deputies on their invitation of the Hon. Commissioners at a dinner at his house," etc. How many partook of this dinner is not recorded, but the commissioners frequently numbered only four or six, and the price paid would seem to indicate that the meal ought to have been a most excellent one. The precedent of dining at public expense is evidently a long-

established one. For more than a hundred years this war of boundaries continued to be waged, and many commissions were chosen during that time. In 1751 a petition was drawn up and presented to the General Court, praying them to run the Colony line from Accord Pond to a stake, as it was said, set up by Nathaniel Woodward and Solomon Suffrey. Committees were chosen from the various towns interested. Colonel Thomas Bowen, Major John Foster, and Captain Samuel Tyler represented this town at first in the matter, others being chosen later. The proprietors of Dorchester and Stoughton chose Robert Speer, Esq., Mr. James Foster, and Samuel Blake, and these with committees from Norton, Easton, and Wrentham drew up the petition and a reply, which they presented to the Honorable Board. This having been done, it was voted by that body to grant a hearing to all the parties concerned. On the ninth of January, 1752, they "were admitted, and heard by council for and against the petition, and then withdrew, and the Hon' Board after some debate thereon voted almost to a man to dismiss this petition, and sent the vote taken to the Hon' House for concurrence, who also voted a hearing & on the 11th day of January the parties were admitted and heard by council, and the House after a large debate voted to dismiss their petition also, by a very clear and full vote, which was a very mortifying stroke to the Petitioners, they being very sure of having their petition granted."[1] The petitioners being from Plymouth Colony were in the right, but the other side were highly gratified at this decision, as they had no desire to give up the disputed tract, even though it was not originally a part of their county or colony.

Finally, prior to 1790, the matter seems to have been pretty thoroughly adjusted, though subsequent to 1820 twelve families were set off from Attleborough to Wrentham by the establishment of a new boundary line or rather in reality by then restoring the true ancient one. This last is now the line between the towns of Wrentham and Attleborough and the counties of Norfolk and Bristol.

At this "Angle Tree" station a stone monument was erected by the authority of the Legislature under the direction of Attleborough and Wrentham. This stone is about fourteen feet in height and two feet in width and of great weight. Upon it is the following inscription. On the north side is written "Massachusetts Colony," and on the south side "Plymouth Colony."

This Monument by order of Government to perpetuate the place on which the late *Station* or *Angle Tree* formerly stood.

The Commissioners appointed by the old Colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts to run and establish this line in 1664, were Robert Stetson, Constant Southworth, Josias Winslow, Jos. Fisher, Roger Clap and Eleazer Lusher. They began this work the 10th of May the same

[1] See Blake's Annals.

year, and marked a tree then standing on this spot, it being three miles south of the southernmost part of Charles River.

Lemuel Kollock, Esq. was appointed Agent to cause this monument to be erected.—By order of the General Court.

The Selectmen of the towns of Wrentham and Attleborough were present, viz. Elisha May, Ebenr. Tyler, and Caleb Richardson, Esqrs. of Attleborough; and Samuel Fisher, John Whiting, Nathan Hawes, Nathan Comstock, and Nathaniel Ware of Wrentham.

From this Stone the line is East 20 Degrees and a half North to Accord Pond.

Done at Wrentham, Nov. 29th, 1790, by Samuel Fisher & Son.

As has been stated, the line from this stone is east, twenty degrees and a half north, to Bound Brook in the center of Accord Pond, so named on account of the agreement or accord of the commissioners made at that place. In running easterly the report states that they came out considerably to the south of the true line. This point should have been on the easterly side of the Blackstone, where the Massachusetts line crosses that river, for that was the northwest corner of the Old Colony. The line between the colonies was a straight line forty miles long, and the true line was coincident with the jurisdiction of Chicatawbat on the north and Massasoit on the south. Of course the lines between the territories of the natives were not definitely fixed, only the initial and terminal points; they were not surveyed by the compass and chain; no artificial bounds were erected, no iron or stone monuments; but some natural sign was taken, such as rivers, ponds, hills, or large rocks; and no marks were made to indicate the location of the boundaries between two given points. Our surveyors ran a conjectural or experimental course and so came out too far west or below the real point. But without doubt the line was intended to include all the domain of the Pockanoket tribe. It is well known that Philip claimed a part of the territory of what is now Wrentham, and his claim was allowed and purchased by the proprietors of Dedham in 1662.[1] At one time the line ran over a hill about two miles from the present line between the towns, called "Line Hill." This matter is of no importance at the present time but may possess some interest as a historical curiosity.

The following may also possess the same kind of interest: —

The commissioners who were appointed by his Majesty in 1664 passed the following order respecting the boundary between Rhode Island and Plymouth Colonies, a part of which was the west line of the Rehoboth North Purchase.

To the Great and General Assembly of Plymouth, and also of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

By the power given us by his Majesty's Commission under his great seal of England, and directed by his Majesty's instructions to make a temporary settlement of the bounds claimed by any Colony, of which we can make no final judgment by consent of parties, that the peace of the country may be preserved, till his Majesty's judgment and determination of their bounds be known,

WE ORDER AND DECLARE, the salt water to divide the main land and Rhode Island from

[1] See History of Dedham, by Mann. Boun. of Wrentham, etc.

Seconet Rocks northward to the point of the main land which [is] next over against Mount Hope point to the said Mount Hope point, not touching upon Rhode Island, and so another right line from Mt. Hope point to the next point upon the main land, and so from point to point and from the last point a right line to the River's mouth called Seakonke, and up said river called Seaconke below and Pautucket above till it meets with the Massachusetts line, to be the present bounds between his Majesty's colony of Plymouth and Rhode Island, till his Majesty's pleasure be further known concerning them. And we desire each colony to give the reasons of their pretences and a draught of their country according to their charters that we may give his Majesty true information of them, which we promise to do.

Given under our hands and seals at Newport on Rhode Island March the 7th 1664.

Robert Carr (Seal)
George Cartwright (Seal)
Samuel Maverick (Seal)

A true copy examined with the original,

Per J. Willard, *Sec'y.*

The following is taken from the *Massachusetts Historical Papers* for October, 1868.[1] This extract is only another proof of the troublesome nature of all boundary lines. Like the two preceding accounts it is of no importance, though it especially refers to our township's early grants; but its quaint diction and curious, old-fashioned spelling cannot fail to make it interesting in the eyes of many. The report of the committee is as follows:

Whearas the Great and Generall Court or Assemble held at Boston ffeb: 27: 1694 in the sixth year of their Majesty's Reign did appoynt us the Subscribers to be a Committe to Vew the graunts and Claimes of the Town of Rehoboth, and the Line of the north purchase, or Town of Attleborough and of one Mile and halfe of Land on the northerly side of said Rehoboth and make description of said Lines Clamed by Each: and Report to the next Generall Assemble as by order of the Assemble may appear

In obedience to and in pursuance of sd order Wee haue here underneath Represented the Line between the Collonys of Masathusets and Plymouth by the double Line A. B. C. D. and E, and haue Caused a Line to be run and measured from the Letter C at the heap of stones by the Road on ten mile hill to the Letter P, being the north Line of Rehoboth Ancient Township: the Chain being caried by one for Rehoboth and one for Attleborough, and the distance is found to be five mile one quarter and 48 rod as per the platt, and from the said P to F three miles and halfe and 14 Rod, these Lines being given we Represent the Ancient Town of Rehoboth of eaight Mile square by the Letters F. G. H. I. nextly we Represent the graunt of Attleborough of Eaight Mile and ten Mile by the Letters A: N. F: and K, and by the prick line to M: and thence by the prick line to E, and by the Collony Line Thence to the Letter A

Rehoboth Gentlemen by Vertue of a deed bearing date March the 6th: 168⅔ and sined Thomas Hinckley Governor and sealed with the Collony seall Clame all the Land between the Collony Line potucket River, their Eaight Mile or ould Township and the line lettered G and D: to belong as Township to them:

And the Gentlemen of Attleborough presented to us their Graunt from the Generall Court which is before described by the Lines Lettered A. X. N. K. M. and E:

But perticulerly as to the mile and halfe described by the Line Lettered N and O: and thence East by the prick Line Rehoboth Genlm produce no perticuler originall graunt thereof distinct from the rest of the north purchase, but present evidence upon oath that the Mile and halfe was perticulerly given to said Town before they made purchase of the north Lands, though all Comprehended in one deed bearing date Aprill 10: 1666 without distinction of gift and sale; and they produce a Citation of the graunt of a Mile and halfe of Land given to the said Town as an in Largement to said Town of Rehoboth which bears date October 27: 1670.

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[1] A communication from C. K. Williams, Esq., Rutland, Vt.

And They also produce a Town order bearing date November the 8th: 1670, which sayes in these words At a Town Meeting Lawfully warned It was Voted and Agreed upon that the Mile and halfe given to the Town for in Largement the Line should be forthwith Run between the North purchase and that Land: And in another order bearing date November 28: 1670 in these words It was also Voted and agreed upon that Leut Hunt and Ensign Smith Nicholas Peck and William: Carpenter should run the Line betwixt the Mile and halfe and the other North Land: And the said Capt Nicholas Peck and Mr William Carpenter being yet Living do afferm. That within a few dayes after said Last date they the whole Committe did Run the Line from N to O, which by the plat is aboue five Mile but Run the Line no further by Reason of the then badness of weather.

Rehoboth May 7th 1695

John Brown
Thomas Leonard } Comittee.
Samll ffisher

Following this report or explanation was the "platt" made by this committee.

In the winter and spring of 1816, this town was visited by the most fatal sickness ever known in these parts. It extended to several other adjoining towns, but did not prove so fatal as here. It swept off in the short space of ninety days about one hundred inhabitants, a large proportion of them heads of families and many of them the most useful and respected citizens of the town. It was commonly called the *cold plague*. "From physicians it received various names, but it was probably a species of typhus fever, of a peculiarly malignant type." It prevailed "in nearly all parts of the town, and committed its ravages apparently without discrimination among both sexes, and among the respectable, the industrious, the temperate and the athletic, as well as those of a different character." Its attacks were often sudden, "its progress rapid, and its termination fatal, generally performing its whole work in from three to seven days, and baffling the most eminent medical skill." Very few who were attacked with it recovered. "It excited great alarm, and it was difficult to procure assistance to pay proper attention to the sick or the dead. No satisfactory causes were ever assigned for its appearance. It was unquestionably atmospheric in its origin; but no exact observations concerning the peculiar circumstances of the seasons or the localities were recorded to guide the investigator. It was not contagious in the common meaning of the term. Some nurses took the disease, but generally they were no more affected than others. In some localities and under some circumstances, the causes of the epidemic seemed to be attracted and concentrated with more intensity than in others; and if a person, in a condition to receive the disease, remained in such a place, he was likely to be affected. In this respect it was not unlike many other epidemics." No disease of the same kind has ever been known here either before or since that time.

In 1832 typhus fever appeared at the Falls, but it was confined to two houses, and of the fifteen persons who were sick but one died. The water had at that time been drawn off from the marshes in that village, "and the peculiar exhalations which arose were supposed to have been the cause of

the disease." "In the summer and autumn of 1839, an epidemic of a typhoid character, sometimes accompanied with pneumonia, occurred on the road leading from Wrentham to East Attleborough. It commenced near the northern line of the town, and extended southerly about three miles to within a mile of East Attleborough, and northerly into Wrentham, and was confined entirely to the road." Eight in a family of nine had the fever, and one died; "and of 20 families scarcely one escaped being affected." There were few fatal cases and the rest of the town was healthy. In 1840 a more malignant type of the same fever appeared in Dodgeville and lasted from July until November. In thirty cases there were four deaths.

No bills of mortality were regularly kept in the town until recently, and the average age of the inhabitants in any given period cannot therefore be obtained.

There have been several instances of very long lives. Deacon Elkanah Wilmarth died at the age of ninety-nine years and seven months. Mary Freeman, relict of Jonathan (or John) Freeman, died March 4, 1762, aged about one hundred years. Widow Sarah Claflin, relict of Antipas Claflin, died in September, 1777, supposed to be one hundred years and six months old. Captain Samuel Robinson lived to approach very near the age of one hundred. Zephaniah Robinson also reached a very advanced age.

John Shepard, "the Ancient," died in this town in 1809, at the extreme age of one hundred and five years. His father was Jacob Shepard, who came to Foxborough about 1703, having purchased some four or five hundred acres of land there from one Captain William Hudson,[1] a trader from Boston. The Indian name of the place was Mamanteepett. A large natural pond on this tract was named for him and is still called "Shepard's Pond." Hudson had here a small house which he occasionally occupied. It was very probably what would now be called a hunter's lodge, though he also made it a sort of tavern for the accommodation of such travelers as then passed over the "Bay Road," and to these he was licensed to sell "wine and liquors." He had some trouble with the authorities of the day and sold out to Jacob Shepard. Here John Shepard was born, O. S., February 25, N. S., March 7, 1704, probably the first person born in Foxborough, for his father was the first permanent settler of that town. Here he remained for one hundred and three years; and during that time, without moving from the spot where he was born, he lived in two counties, Suffolk and Norfolk, and in four towns, Dorchester, Stoughton, Wrentham, and Foxborough.

He was married three times: to the first wife, Eliony Pond, August 24, 1726; to the second, Abigail Richardson, August 8, 1728; to the third, Martha Bacon, June 25, 1731. The latter died in Foxborough, April 3, 1800, aged ninety-five years. He had one son and several daughters. Two

[1] The same who served a dinner to the commissioners.

of these lived to be upwards of eighty years of age, and another, Mrs. Mary Mann, of Wrentham, who died in 1828, lived to be almost ninety-seven. She retained all her faculties and usual cheerfulness and vivacity till the last fifteen years of her life. She abstained almost wholly from animal food and never was in the habit of drinking tea or coffee and wondered how people could relish either. Her most common food was milk. She adhered to the same fashion in dress for eighty years.

On November 9, 1807, the venerable John Shepard was brought to the house of his grandson, the late Hon. Ebenezer Daggett (father of the author), where he remained until his death. This occurred April 5, 1809, when he had reached the remarkably advanced age of one hundred and five years and twenty-nine days. He is interred in the old burying ground nearly opposite his former dwelling in Wrentham. He was a man of pious character, cheerful in disposition, jocose, witty, and of a quick understanding. He retained all his faculties of mind and body, except his eyesight, to the last, and was just able to walk with a little assistance till a few days before his death. He was deprived of his eyesight on a sudden, during the night, and was not himself aware of it until the next morning, when he sought in vain for the light of day. He could distinctly recollect events which had occurred a century before. Many travelers would go miles out of their way to see a centenarian; strangers often asked permission to look at this singular specimen of human longevity, and for a long time, a year or more before his death, scarce a day passed without a visitor curious to get a sight of this man of more than a century's length of life.

Rev. James Read preached his century sermon at Foxborough, March 7, 1804, and on his hundred and fourth birthday, March 7, 1808, Rev. Nathan Holman preached a sermon before him at the residence of Mr. Daggett. The clergymen in all the neighboring towns were invited to attend this service. The manuscript sermon is still in existence and was in the possession of the author until his death. The text was Proverbs 16:31, "The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness." The conclusion of this sermon is here quoted: —

I shall close this discourse in a few words addressed to the aged gentleman, at whose request I am present this day.

Respected Sir,

The dealings of God with you in some respects, have been peculiar. The age of man is limited to three score years and ten, and there are but few who arrive to that period. But God has kept you alive thirty and four years beyond that period which is not only the age of man, but fitly termed old age. You have had large and long experience of his goodness and tender mercy. He has preserved, and borne and carried you even to old age and hoary hairs until you are a wonder to many. So far as your knowledge extends you are the last left in this world, of the generation who came on to the stage with you. You have survived a great multitude of your age, and of your youngers. Great changes have passed over the world since you have been in it. God has been with you and carried you through scenes of prosperity and adversity. As you hope, he has long since visited you with the enlightening, renewing, and sanctifying influences of his grace, and inclined you to walk in the way of righteousness. In

many important respects you have been distinguished from your fellow-men. Tho' you may be ready to say with aged Jacob, "Few and evil have the days of the years of thy servant been," yet must you not be constrained to say, that God is good, that He has never left nor forsaken you, that you have found him faithful to his promises. Are you not ready to testify that the consolations of religion are neither few nor small?

Though you are now old, yet you know not the day of your death. Though you have reason to believe that the time of your departure is not far distant, yet the day and hour you know not. Study therefore to be useful while you live. The long and rich experience you have had of the goodness of the Lord, calls for your warmest gratitude, and highest praises. Endeavor to bring forth fruit to his glory even in old age. Give no place to the too common and unfounded opinion that the aged are useless, and burdens to their friends and to the world. You may yet be highly useful. You may glorify God, and recommend the religion of Jesus to the world, by your patience, contentment, thankfulness, and resignation under the evils and infirmities of old age. You are prepared to give the best of counsel to the young, and that from your own experience and observation, and your prayers may draw down blessings upon the world for ages yet to come. Endeavor to abound in these duties. Though the aged are not capable of performing the active services of young Christians, yet they have services of equal importance, which they only can perform. It is their province and theirs only to show the happy effects which religion has in old age. This young Christians cannot do.

May you still desire and strive to be useful in your sphere. May the faithfulness of God lead you still to confide in his promises. May the hope of approaching glory comfort you in all your tribulations, and animate you to fill up the remainder of your days in duty and usefulness. May you enjoy much of the divine presence and with holy Job patiently wait till your change comes. Then may you meet the applause of well done good and faithful servant, enter through the gate into the city, and have access to the tree of life. Amen.

On July 11, 1885, one of the early emigrants from this town to Harford, Penn., Mrs. Nancy Stanley, was still alive, and on the twenty-third of June preceding she celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday in the city of Chicago, her home. Her father was Laban Capron, of this town, and in the spring of 1794, she, then four years old, went with him, her mother, and a brother and sister, to Harford. She married a Dr. Stanley, and on May 15, 1835, with her husband and nine children, she left New Milford, Penn , and went to the then far West, Illinois. They were a little over a month in reaching Downer's Grove, in that State, where they made a permanent home. Upon her ninety-fifth anniversary she received the congratulations of nearly a thousand people and could then recall even slight incidents connected with her long journey taken fifty years before; and up to that time she had preserved her faculties to a remarkable degree, her hearing only being slightly impaired. There were living of her family at that date, besides herself, six children, twenty-seven grandchildren, twenty-nine great-grandchildren, and one of the fifth generation, making, with herself, sixty-four in all.

Among the residents of our town who attained to remarkable age was Joseph Carpenter. He was the son of James and Lucy Bliss Carpenter, of Rehoboth, and was born in that town September 8, 1789. He was the grandson of Colonel Thomas Carpenter, of Rehoboth, of Revolutionary fame, who was sometimes associated with Colonel John Daggett, of this town, in military enterprises and in a manner which redounded to the credit of both. On February 21, 1813, he married Nancy Bullock, of his native town, and

their union continued for over sixty-seven years. They had fourteen children, ten of whom lived to maturity, and seven of whom are now living. Though known for himself to many of the elders among our people, he will be better known to the younger generation if we say he was the father of Mrs. Lucy B. Sweet, "our town poet," who is herself well known to everybody through the columns of the town press, but more especially these many years for her pleasing poems. Mr. Carpenter came to this town about 1850 and resided here during the rest of his life. He served in the War of 1812 and on his return home made the following entry in his account book, which is still in existence: "Was paid $11.37 for said service." The length of service is not mentioned, but the sum is not a munificent one, considering the value of the money of that period, even if the time was less than a month.

Mr. Carpenter was an unusually active man and even to the very end of his life. When past seventy he set out an orchard of apple trees and when rather remonstrated with for this action, on the ground that he would get no good from it, he replied to the effect that those live wisest who think not alone of themselves, but of others, even of the coming generations, saying, "If I cannot benefit by this apple orchard myself, others can, and one is never too old to commence a good work." When eighty-four he "cradled five acres of rye, and prepared it for housing." The last twenty years of his life, from 1860 to 1880, he lived on the place formerly owned and occupied by Dr. Lemuel Fuller. His mind never lost its activity, and his memory was remarkably retentive. It extended over a period of at least eighty-one years with great distinctness, for he could recall clearly the event of going with his grandfather, the colonel, to Providence in 1799, to attend the services held at the time of Washington's death, and he also remembered the intervening events of importance. He died November 12, 1880, aged ninety-one years, two months, and four days. On the day preceding his death his oldest child was sixty-seven years old, and is living still, and his very numerous descendants are scattered over many of our States. His funeral services were held at Oldtown, where he attended church, but he and his wife are buried in the old cemetery of their native town (1887).

One of the oldest, if not the very oldest living person at present in town, is Mr. Isaac Draper, of South Attleborough. His family is remarkable for numbers, as fourteen lived to mature age. Mr. Draper in July, 1887, became ninety-one years old. All his faculties at that time had been preserved to an extraordinary degree: his eyesight was good, his hearing quick, and his movements were not lacking in vigor or elasticity. His memory was better than that of many persons with half his years, and he exhibited no single sign of extreme old age. He still possessed, unchanged, the old-time courtesy of manner, that gracious gallantry which flatters, without being insincere, and he still retained the same charming and agreeable style of conversing which always distinguished him. At was impossible in his presence to realize

his age, for there was nothing in his appearance to indicate aught else than a well-preserved man of threescore years and ten. The Editor had an interview with him not very long since, which will always be recalled as among the pleasantest of the many gratifying memories connected with the preparation of this book. Mr. Draper is very deeply interested in religious matters, and practically, for he believes that, so long as life is given to a man, so long will certain things be required of him. Age is no excuse, if mind and health remain, and, realizing that the duties of religion are of paramount importance, he makes them his chief consideration and performs them in public and in private conscientiously and intelligently. May he live to be at least a hundred years old, a shining example to all around him![1]

The town has had in a somewhat literal sense one real son of independence, for Eliphalet Claflin was born here on July 4, 1776.

In many of the ancient towns of the colonies, there were occasionally found original and eccentric characters, who preferred the wilderness to the more cultivated parts of the country.

Among the early inhabitants of this town was one Joseph Chaplin, who became a proprietor and a great landholder. He was of respectable descent. He came here from Rowley, Mass., and was a descendant of Rev. Hugh Chaplin, who came over in 1638, and who lived and died in that town. He was a man of peculiar tastes and habits and eccentric in his conduct. He laid out a large quantity of land, in all about seven hundred acres, including the most of that large tract formerly called the "Half-Way Swamp," and his other lands were located on the "East Bay Road" and vicinity. His mania seemed to be the acquisition of land, but he could cultivate only a small portion of his extensive possessions and could derive no profit from the rest. He lived completely alone, a hermit's life, abjuring all society, especially that of the female sex. The cause of this seclusion is not positively known, but tradition says it was the faithlessness of a young lady to whom he was attached in early life. Chaplin was not morose, but naturally benevolent and kind. He planted several orchards and raised a variety of fruits. He would permit the neighboring women to come and partake of the abundant fruits of his orchards, but was always careful to retire out of sight on the occasion and so remain till they were gone. He kept a large stock of cattle, built his own house, cooked his own food, and made his own clothes. His only companions were a number of large cats, who lived luxuriously on his abundant stores. His name is found on several committees relating to the public lands, of which he was a shareholder, and he was on good terms with his neighbors, so far as any intercourse

[1] Mr. Draper died very suddenly, May 14, 1889. He had failed physically somewhat, but on the day of his death was as well as usual. His daughter was obliged to leave him at one time, and returning in about three minutes, found him sitting in his easychair, dead.

occurred. He died about 1750 at a very advanced age. His property was divided among his heirs-at-law: Jonathan Chaplin; Elizabeth Chaplin, who married Samuel Searl; and John Chaplin, all of Rowley, this State. They sold his estate here, and none of them remained in town.

Joseph Antoine Richaud was an eccentric man, having adopted rather peculiar religious notions. He was a native of France. For what reason he left his native country is not known. It would seem probable, however, that he imbibed strong republican sentiments, and, having his attention turned to this country by the actions of some of his prominent countrymen, he naturally came here where he could have freedom to indulge in the carrying out of his ideas. It is not known that he had any relative in the country or any acquaintance when he landed on these shores. He settled down at South Attleborough in the village called "the city." He lived alone in a small one-story house, in which he kept a variety store, by which he supplied the neighboring farmers with many of the articles needed for family use. He lived to an advanced age. He was said to be of decidedly choleric temperament and very peculiar, but he was "warmly attached to republican democracy." He made his will and gave all his property to the school district in which he lived, provided a certain possible heir did not claim it within a stated time. Portions of it have been appropriated from time to time to the common-school education in that place. About $1,100 still remains of this legacy. Richaud was buried in the ancient burying ground in his neighborhood, where the epitaph inscribed on his gravestone — of which he was the author — may still be read.

The recent death in an adjoining town of Mr. Dan Perry calls to mind the once familiar figure of a former resident here, one whose form and features must at one time have been known to almost every inhabitant of the town. Mr. Perry was born in Rehoboth something over eighty years ago and besides his native town resided in Seekonk, Attleborough, Pawtucket, in the State of Maine, and finally in Mansfield, where he died. His mechanical tendencies were inherited from his father, whose family were remarkable in that direction. One of its members was the maker of the bobbins which were used in the first cotton-mill ever started in this country. Mr. Dan Perry learned the trade of a blacksmith, and this doubtless proved of much use to him in the practical working out of his inventions. He followed his trade for a time, but it was not long before his inventive genius asserted itself, and again and again his busy brain evolved the idea and his clever fingers constructed labor-saving machines which made him quite famous. He was the first or among the first to think out and construct a machine for folding papers, and one he invented is still used by the *New England Farmer*. Another machine of his invention made folding ladders; another turned sword handles. He made butter molds, pails with adhesive hoops, and his was the first apple-parer ever known. Perhaps his best known invention,

however, for which he took out the patent while living in this town, was his "Yankee Water Elevator." Many an overworked, weary housewife has blessed him for its advent and has turned with joy from the ponderous old sweep or wrenching pump to this appliance for economizing time and strength.

Scores of people will remember the homely but intelligent face of Mr. Perry and his tall, somewhat ungainly form, clothed with neatness but with utter carelessness of the fashion of the garments that covered it, moving rapidly through our streets or driving everywhere about the town in an open wagon with a "specimen" of the "Elevator" behind the seat. Many then children, now come to middle age, will remember the stories told them of the powers of this remarkable man and the things which to their wondering minds seemed to border widely on the supernatural, which were said to be and often indeed were within the range of his possibilities. He had striking peculiarities of appearance and manner such as are common to men of his stamp; but these were more than equaled by his good-nature. The fun and jokes called forth by his productions never annoyed him; he was always ready to laugh with those who laughed at them or at him. Every shaft of ridicule, no matter how well aimed, he met with a merry twinkle of the eye and a quick response which generally left the enemy outwitted and himself the master of the field. Unlike many persons of his peculiar genius Mr. Perry was possessed of an abundance of common sense. He was a man of marked individuality; he held original opinions of his own tenaciously and advocated them zealously but with tolerance towards others. He lived a long and busy life and was practically useful to his own generation, as the results of his work will continue to be through coming generations.

Mr. Perry was several times married, but had only two children, both sons. The elder of these was Orin F. Perry, so long engaged in business in Pawtucket and well known to the people of this town, and he is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery here. His wife was Adeline Short, sister of Philip and Mace Short, of this town, and she with a daughter, for years a successful teacher in our schools, resides here.

Within a few months another long-familiar form has left its accustomed place, never to return. Many years ago a man came from Ireland to this town and settled at the Farmers. He lived in a small house near the schoolhouse there and set up his shoemaker's bench in a little shop close by. He worked hard and he earned, though it was sometimes with difficulty that he obtained a sufficient livelihood for his increasing family. But he labored on with unremitting diligence, and here his children grew up to honor him and to be an honor to him. He was long poor in this world's goods; but he and his wife were always rich in kind words and deeds, especially to the schoolchildren of the neighborhood, for whom they repaired all sorts of damages, from worn shoes to cut fingers. If these lines meet the eyes of any who

"went to school at the Farmers" twenty or thirty years ago, they will surely recall many pleasant memories of those days connected with these good friends of their childhood. Bleeding faces, bruised limbs, torn trowsers, rent frocks, or flying buttons were all alike to the patient fingers of this busy woman, who was never too busy to restore the ravages of accident or carelessness or to comfort the timid hearts of frightened little ones. Year after year this man worked at his humble trade, long after the necessity for daily toil had passed away, for as the years went on great prosperity came to the eldest son, and his abundant all was placed at the disposal of his loved parents. But that spot alone was home, the routine of the little shop too much his life ever to be laid aside, and he left the worn bench only to enter his grave. He lived a simple, uneventful life; but he lived it respectably and well, and in this regard he was an example worthy to be imitated by any man, no matter how exalted his position. He brought up his children to honesty and industry and left to them and to their children this richest inheritance. Though he occupied a humble place it will be a long time before John Nerney is forgotten.

The original title to the North Purchase, as already stated, was derived from Alexander, the son of Massasoit and the elder brother of the celebrated Philip, sachem of Pockanoket. His original name was Mooanam, afterwards Wamsutta or Wamsitta, and finally Alexander Pockanoket, which last name was bestowed upon him, and that of Philip upon his brother, by the Plymouth Court on the occasion of the death of their father, Massasoit. It appears to have been a custom with the aborigines in this part of the country, at least with their chiefs, to assume new names on the decease of any one of the family to which they belonged. This custom may perhaps be traced to some Eastern origin, as many of the Indian ceremonies have already been by historians.

On a visit which these two sons made to Plymouth on June 10, 1660, during a session of the court which commenced June 6 their English names by which they were generally known to us were bestowed upon them. A record of this transaction is preserved on the Old Colony books, which is here copied: —

"June 10, 1660. At the earnest request of Wamsitta desiring that, in regard his father is lately deceased, and he being desirous, *according to the custom of the natives*, to change his name, that the court would confer an English name upon him, which accordingly they did, and therefore ordered that for the future he shall be called by the name of Alexander Pokanoket; and desiring the same in behalf of his brother, they have named him Phillip."

There has been much controversy among historians concerning the time of Massasoit's death. Ancient historians have usually assigned a date several years earlier; modern biographers and historians have generally supposed

it several years later than the true period. The circumstance of the bestowment of these names upon these brothers is mentioned by the ancient historians, but not the occasion of it, and without fixing any precise date. One writer,[1] who supposes his death to have occurred several years subsequent to 1661, thinks the fact of the father not being mentioned as having attended this ceremony, which was for the confirmation of a treaty, etc., with his sons, occasioned the suggestion that he was dead, and he further says: "It would be a sufficient explanation of his absence however, that he was now an old man, and that the distance of Sowarns from Plymouth was more than forty miles."

The above record, however, clearly proves that Massasoit died *a short time previous to* June 10, 1660, and previous to his first publication of it in 1834 the author had never seen it in print. It shows the origin of Wamsutta's modern name, and with the honor of being called after the great warriors of antiquity he and his brother were greatly pleased.

The colonists during this friendly intercourse could not have anticipated that in the course of a few years the younger brother, upon whom they were then conferring the name of an ancient conqueror and who was possessed of all the natural talent and ambition of his great namesake, though not his power or good fortune, would become their most dangerous enemy and the terror of all New England.

It appears that among some tribes of the natives the custom prevailed of changing their habitations as well as their names on the decease of a member of the family. I have learned from a reliable source the following instance: On a part of the farm of the late Ebenezer Daggett (most recently of the late Harvey M. Daggett), previous to its occupation by the whites, and for some years after, resided several families by the name of Read, who were said to be of a mixed race, Indian and negro, and who were always observed to change the location of their huts on the death of any one of their number. This change occurred several times within the observation of the early settlers. This custom they probably derived from their Indian descent. At one time the huts of these people were on the brook passing through the farm, where it crosses the "East Bay Road," very near the old Daggett homestead. The survivors who lived till after this road was laid out, which passed near their dwellings, requested that when they died they might be buried near that road with their heads towards it, "*so that they could hear the newes when the great post-stage passed.*"

Their request was complied with and they were buried a few rods from the route where the old road passed, with their heads in that direction. The place where they were buried is still pointed out in a small valley on elevated ground. The hillocks over their graves, four in number, were distinctly

[1] B. B. Thatcher. See his Indian Biography, vol. i, chap. vii, p. 141.

visible within the remembrance of the author. They seemed to have no idea of a physical extinction by death, but to consider it as some sort of natural change merely and not a destruction of the material system. The postman's horn has never disturbed their slumbers, and the news of the great post-stage for which they longed has never reached their ears. The plowshare of the husbandman has long since leveled the mounds that covered their graves. The postman's stage, too, has long since disappeared from the hills and valleys of New England, and the cheerful echoes of his horn have ceased to send their lively sounds to the listening ears of lonely settlers. The lumbering carriage that wended its slow way from Boston to Bristol and returned once a week has given place to a swift vehicle which announces its passing with a frightful shriek and which flies over the same distance daily in two hours' time. These humble sleepers still wait for the coming of the "newes" that will never be brought to them.

Many of the people of this town have emigrated to other parts of the country. Various families at different periods removed to Vermont, New Hampshire, Ohio, and western New York, and some ninety years ago many emigrated to different towns in Maine and laid the foundation for some of them. Union included many inhabitants from this place.

In 1789 a number of young men in this town, mostly unmarried and without much capital, believing they could better their condition by emigrating to some place where land was newer and cheaper, formed a company for the purpose of purchasing a tract of land in a new settlement. They met in various places in their neighborhood and discussed the subject in all its bearings. Nine persons joined this company, which was called "The Nine Partners." They were Hosea Tiffany, Caleb Richardson, Jr., Ezekiel Titus, Robert Follet, John Carpenter, Moses Thacher, Daniel Carpenter, Samuel Thacher, and Josiah Carpenter, all of Attleborough. Tiffany, Titus, and Follet were married, and all but Tiffany, who was over thirty, were under twenty-five. After examining several locations in western New York they finally selected northeastern Pennsylvania and purchased a tract of land four miles long and one mile in width in Susquehanna County for £1,198, about $5,800. On Tuesday, May 18, 1790, they reached the "Beaver Meadows" in the westerly part of their purchase, and close by a large spring at the lower extremity of this meadow they built a rude cabin as a temporary shelter. The writings for their purchase were drawn up and signed on a hemlock stump, May 22, 1790. That region was then the solitude of an immense wilderness, a rocky, rough, and mountainous tract, but they later made it "blossom as the rose" with churches, schoolhouses, sawmills, manufactories, mechanics' shops, and stores, making of it one of the pleasantest towns among the hills and valleys of its great State; and in due time the iron roadway brought intercourse with the outside world.

"To distribute their joint purchase, a plan was adopted by which 150

acres were assigned to each partner, and the remainder kept as a common domain. The division, like that of Israel's promised inheritance was made by lot, and resulted satisfactorily. By a subsequent arrangement with Mr. Drinker, the landholder, their joint obligation for the wholesale purchase was cancelled, and individuals became responsible for their own possessions." The purchasers at once commenced clearing some portions of their land and preparing it for habitation; but having no means of procuring the provisions necessary for their support they returned to Attleborough till the fall. Having thus commenced their settlement they continued for a year or two to go back and forth between it and this town. Like the company, it was called "The Nine Partners" until 1807, when it was incorporated as a town under the name of Harford.

These nine young men were followed by a large number of their friends and relatives from this town. February 2, 1792, Hosea Tiffany and wife, with their three children — Hosea, Amos, and Nancy — and Robert Follet, wife, and daughter Lucy, started from here with ox teams and arrived at the settlement the first week in March. These were the first white women who visited that place. In the spring of 1794 additions to the settlement were as follows: Laban Capron,[1] wife, and children; Thomas Sweet, wife, and daughter; John Carpenter, wife, and son; Samuel Thacher, wife, and son; John Tyler, Jr., and Dr. Capron. In the fall of that year John Tyler, his wife, and children, and Thomas Tiffany, wife, and children went out. The Tylers were three weeks on this journey from Attleborough to "The Nine Partners." In the fall of 1795 Amos Sweet, wife, and children and Ezekiel Titus, wife, and children followed; and during the same year, or soon after, a number of emigrants were added to the settlement: Elkanah Tingley, Obadiah Carpenter and sons, Joseph Blanding, Obediah Thacher, John Thacher, Moses Thacher, Abel Read, Thomas Wilmarth, Noah Fuller, Nathaniel Claflin, and others. All the emigrants previous to 1800 were from this town, with the exception of Jonathan Oakley, who was a native of New York State. Eight of the "Nine Partners" were living in 1830, forty years after their first view of the wilderness; fourteen years later, in 1844, only two remained, Ezekiel Titus in Harford, and Moses Thacher in Ohio. In 1846 the last one died. The first marriage in the settlement was that of Orlen Capron to Ama Carpenter, in October, 1798; and the first death was that of an infant daughter of Robert Follet, in December, 1796, and hers was the first body placed in the graveyard. Dr. Comfort Capron began the practice of his profession in Harford in 1794. He died in June, 1800, and his was the first death among the adults.

These families carried their New England homes and customs and forms of social life with them, and the natural results were produced in the reli-

[1] Father of Mrs. Nancy Stanley, before referred to.

gious and educational character of succeeding generations. The institutions of New England were introduced into their life in the wilderness: the church and the schoolhouse stood there side by side. The first church was formed June 13, 1800, about ten years after the settlement was founded, by Rev. Jedediah Chapman, a missionary from New Jersey. It was the child of the Second Congregational Church of this town and consisted of seven members, all of whom had letters from that church. It also received additions from time to time from the mother church. At first the members adopted the articles of faith professed by Rev. Mr. Chapman, who was a Presbyterian and who organized the church, but in March, 1803, they unanimously adopted the confession of faith and platform of the Attleborough church in affectionate remembrance of the friends they had left. Soon afterward, however, these were somewhat modified and made more brief. John Tyler and Obadiah Carpenter were the first deacons. The church had but one addition, and that was by letter, for the first three years. In 1806 a small meetinghouse, twenty-two feet by thirty, was erected, and about 1822 a larger edifice was built. In 1878 the church membership was one hundred and eighty-four, and during the almost eighty years of its existence had had nearly eight hundred names enrolled upon its books. At that time Harford was a very prosperous little town numbering sixteen hundred people.

The church was visited during the several years immediately succeeding its formation by different missionaries from the vicinity, who labored with the people on their occasional visits, but on August 4, 1810, Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury was installed as the first pastor. He was a native of Coventry, Conn., and a graduate of Yale College. He continued to be the pastor until 1827. Rev. Adam Miller preached his first sermon in the church September 21, 1828, soon received a call, and was installed April 28, 1830. He continued in the service of the people during an uninterrupted period of fifty years. On September 29, 1878, the fiftieth anniversary of his ministry was celebrated, when he delivered a valuable and interesting historical sermon. He had labored with that people through many of their early struggles, until the settlers had built up their social edifice, and now they had become a prosperous township and an educated and intelligent community. He died December 1, 1881.

The colony existed for a long time without the safeguards of a civil organization. For a while they had no magistrates or public officers. They succeeded in governing themselves. The temptations to controversies were very limited with a people who were at first all engaged in subduing and cultivating their soil. But perhaps that which most distinguished them and did them the most credit was their devotion to the cause of education — to their schools and various educational institutions. Great attention was given to the education of the youth of the place. Many of the young emigrants were themselves qualified for teachers before they left their homes, and made

school-teaching their vocation, some of them for life, in their new settlement or in neighboring towns. Rev. Lyman Richardson, son of the emigrant Caleb Richardson, who was one of the original "partners," commenced teaching while quite young. He soon established a select classical school in Harford, which he maintained during his life. It was incorporated as the Franklin Academy but afterward called Harford University. "Ezekiel Titus, Thomas Wilmarth, and Jacob Blake cleared the land whereon Franklin Academy subsequently stood, in 1795–6." In 1817 Lyman Richardson commenced his classical school. In 1830 the name of Franklin Academy was given to the school, and soon after the first building was erected. In 1836 it had become a "recognized institution of learning in N. E. Pennsylvania, having a charter from the Legislature." In the course of twelve or fifteen years a number of small "Halls" had been added to the first building. In these many students boarded themselves and studied. In 1850 the institution became Harford University.

In this school were educated not only the youth of the place but many from various townships in northern Pennsylvania and vicinity. Many were prepared for college and many educated for various other walks of life, who afterward became useful and eminent men. Several were judges in the courts of different States; one was a governor, and others were lawyers, physicians, ministers, teachers, professors, etc., of ability and prominence. Harford has herself furnished several men prominent in public life who were educated in her own schools.

The university flourished for a number of years, but about 1865 ceased its existence as such, for it is said the Rev. Lyman Richardson "closed his work, and heard his last recitation probably" in that year. As far as could be ascertained the number of students who had been enrolled upon its catalogues was about 1,800. "Hon. F. B. Streeter, Solicitor of the U. S. Treasury, says, 'I believe that school has been of more service to the country generally than any other Literary Institution within my knowledge. Franklin Academy has been peculiarly a school for poor men's sons, and the instances are not few of very obscure young men who have left it to occupy stations of comparative distinction and usefulness.'" Soon after the close of the Civil War the State selected the grounds and buildings of this institution as a suitable location for a school for soldiers' orphans. Though no longer the seat of classical learning the site is still used for educational purposes and the orphan school is very flourishing.

Many of the inhabitants of Harford at this day bear the same names which their ancestors carried with them from their native town, and not one of those names has become extinct in this town.

On the whole, we think we have no reason to be ashamed of these descendants in Harford; we think they have done credit to their ancestry. Long may they sustain the institutions which they reëstablished on the banks of

the Susquehanna and abide in the principles which they carried with them from Attleborough, New England! May the seed take even deeper root and flourish more extensively in this fertile field and bear yet more abundant fruit for future ages!

Judge George Leonard, of Norton, was so intimately connected in various ways with this town and was a man so well known in his day and generation that some mention of him will not be inappropriate. He was an owner of land in this town. Captain Thomas Leonard and Lieutenant James Leonard, of Taunton, of his family, bought fifty acres, more or less, of John Daggett, of Rehoboth. He had business connections here and much intercourse with our fathers of the last generation. He was born in Norton and was a descendant of the first James Leonard who settled in Taunton. The family were for many generations both in Europe and America famous as iron merchants, were men of prominence, of high breeding, and great wealth. Thomas and James, sons of James the first, were the founders of the great "Leonard Iron Works" of Norton. The place where they built their foundry was called "Stony Brook" later and now again "Chartley Brook." The origin of this latter name is not known, but very probably may have been the name of some place or stream near the native place of the Leonards, Pontypool, in Wales, and by them given to this little stream on which they settled. One of the early owners here greatly enlarged the original iron works and increased his paternal inheritance of several hundred acres to the extent of nearly a thousand acres, so that at the time of which we write the estate was the largest in Bristol County and probably the largest in New England. Its timber lands were "the most valuable in the State." It is said that the keel of the frigate Constitution, "Old Ironsides," was taken from these lands.

Judge Leonard occupied the old manorial mansion built before 1700, and here, surrounded by his tenantry, he lived in the style of an English country gentleman. The antique and rich furniture which adorned the house was of English make and had descended from his forefathers; his carriage was of the large, ponderous build of their day; and his dress was of the same fashion as that worn by his ancestors when they left their native shore. Inheriting many of the traits of his English and Colonial lineage, he was satisfied, though others had changed, to retain many of their manners and customs. His park was a great attraction and the deer which roamed it at will of great interest to his neighbors and to many travelers from far and wide, and these animals he preserved to the day of his death. He was a true gentleman of the old school — courtly in presence, courteous in manner, genial in intercourse with his friends and neighbors; everybody knew him, everybody admired and respected him. He held many offices of honor and trust. He was a judge of probate for several years and performed many marriage ceremonies in his own and adjoining towns, some here. He was

judge of the court of common pleas and later chief justice of the same; was registrar of probate, councillor, State senator, and was a member of the First, Third, and Fourth Congresses of the United States. The iron works were discontinued before his death and saw and grist mills erected on the old foundation, and at present a jewelry shop, some years since established, is using the water power.

There is now scarcely a survivor of those historic times, scarcely one born within the days of Washington; and the few remaining relics of that interesting past are fast disappearing. Some perhaps remember the old manor house in its latter days and the workshop, in whose belfry hung a large bell which summoned the workmen to their meals from distant fields; and the limits of the deer park were pointed out until recently. Some memories will no doubt recall the oft-repeated tales of former splendors connected with this baronial-like residence and its opulent owners, with its many romances, brilliant and shadowy, and perhaps a restless, wandering ghost. The bell has long since ceased its noisy clangor and the belfry been torn down; the laborers' busy days of toil on those broad fields are over; the haunts of the deer have vanished, and the giants of the park have bowed to the ruthless blows of the woodman's axe or fallen neglected beneath the ravages of time; while the fine old mansion itself has lost all prestige of state and antiquity by being *improved* into a *modern* dwelling, and its rare old furniture is scattered to the winds of heaven. If any of the former owners who looked up with pride to that ancient roof with its venerable gables and welcomed their friends within those walls with stately pomp and dignified hospitality could now revisit the earth, they would search in vain for one single landmark of their once beautiful home, and sorrowing they would find themselves in the midst of an unknown people surrounded with scenes new and strange.

There are some very interesting circumstances connected with the early history of that portion of the town now called Mechanicsville or Mechanics. In the early part of the eighteenth century a saw and grist mill stood by the stream there. Previous to 1740 one Robert Saunderson bought the premises and set up a forge for manufacturing iron. This "Bloomery," the name then given to the business, became quite a celebrated establishment. Not very much is known of Mr. Saunderson. He was a merchant of Boston at the time of his purchase, was supposed to be an emigrant from England, and was doubtless a man of substance. He built for himself a house here somewhat after the English style and superior to any in town at that age, where he lived in an elegant and fashionable manner. He furnished it as befitted an opulent gentleman and extended liberal hospitality to his numerous friends and neighbors, providing the highest entertainment for them. He had his wine cellar, his carriage and span of horses, and maintained a state of great luxury. There appears to be no mention traditionally or otherwise of a Madame Saunderson, and it would therefore seem probable that Mr. Saun-

derson may have been that very interesting personage, a rich bachelor. In some ways the world changes not a whit; by the present we can frequently read the past; and, if this conjecture be true, it is reasonably certain that his lonely condition was not due to lack of sympathy on the part of any of the fair damsels of his day.

His house and its surroundings must have formed an attractive scene, a picturesque sylvan retreat. There was the pretty pond with gently sloping wooded banks, the little river flowing cheerfully by, and the unique dwelling itself in its setting of green, shaded with primeval trees by day and lighted up with the lurid fires of the forge by night. It is easy to picture the house and its varied throngs of guests. There is the real son of the Pilgrims, sturdy, solemn, austere in garb and manner; there is the stately colonial dame in her stiff, rich robes, with her dignified portly lord, becomingly proud of his comely person, his handsome dress, and his exalted position; there is the modest Puritan maiden, bewitching in her innocence and in spite of her primness and the plain severity of her costume; by her side the city-bred young lady, wearing her toilet of the latest fashion with haughty grace, conscious of her charms, certain of her conquests; and there are quaint, demure children, the counterpart in miniature of their stern and sober elders. Again perhaps we see a gathering of youths and maidens who dare to laugh and be merry under the encouraging eye of their gracious host; or possibly some gentlemen of gentility from the far-off town of Boston have driven out to this country residence, to feast upon their old friend's good things, to test the merits of his wine cellar, pronounce upon the rich mellowness of his oldest and rarest liquids, and to drink the health of His Majesty, the King, "after the good old English customs." Still again, in imagination, we may hear the conversation of some manly group as they talk of politics, of their conduct in the old home land, of their being well or ill managed in the new. Now and again the righteous indignation of some elder over a fresh act of injustice on the part of the mother country is forcibly expressed, or we listen to the fiery speech of some hot-blooded youth, who springs to his feet and with hand on sword hilt stands ready to avenge that and every wrong. By the light of the years which have intervened we can see in a scene like this, one which very probably may have taken place here, our great Republic in embryo, and yet as we look back we can but marvel at those wondrous changes the time has wrought.

After a time Mr. Saunderson sold a portion of his property in this town, but for what special reason does not appear, nor is anything whatever known of his subsequent history. Robert Lightfoot, who was also a Boston merchant, was the purchaser, and he became the "Iron Master" in this place. He is supposed to have lived in this house, which in later days became still more famous, partly owing to its peculiar construction and partly to the scenes which it is known were enacted within its walls. It came in time to

be known as the "chapel," from the shape in which it was built. It was externally in the form usual to chapels and was two stories high. The upper part was occupied by the family, and the lower floor by the domestics of the household and perhaps farm servants, for the estate comprised much more than the premises occupied by the bloomery. The "old chapel" stood facing the pond and about one hundred feet from it. It was about square in shape, the first story built of stone with very low rooms and stone-flagged floors, but the second story was very high. There was a large circular hall in the centre with a narrow passageway leading into it from each side of the house, and there was a row of triangular-shaped rooms all around. These were all lofty, airy apartments, and all opened into the great central hall. Some parts of the house were elaborately finished, and it long continued to be the most stylish building in town and renowned for its hospitality. Mr. Lightfoot appears to have fully maintained the reputation established by his predecessor, for he administered the civilities of the age to many friends and acquaintances, entertaining them with generous liberality. He came here in 1742. How long he remained is not known, but he removed from here to Newport, R. I., and in 1759 Thomas Cobb purchased the "Bloomery" and all its appurtenances of him and John Merritt and wife, of Providence, who were then part owners of the premises.

Mr. Cobb was born in Taunton and married Lydia, oldest daughter of James Leonard, Jr., one of the founders of the Chartley Iron Works, this connection being probably the cause or the effect of his entering upon the business of an iron manufacturer. We may naturally suppose the business here to have been a profitable one, as Mr. Cobb made quite extensive purchases of land besides that of the property of the forge, etc., which belonged to his predecessors. May 11, 1760, he bought land on the Bay Road, of Hezekiah Peck, of this town. The witnesses to the transaction were John Daggett and George Leonard, Jr. September 11, 1762, he purchased of Amos Sweet, son of John Sweet, two tracts of land, one of twenty acres assigned to Amos in the division of his father's estate, and another lot assigned to Sarah, his sister, containing about thirty-one and a half acres, "with part of a dwelling-house standing on the same." May 18, 1764, he purchased of Benjamin Sweet, another heir of John Sweet, a tract containing thirty-four and three-fourths acres, adjoining the forge pond and his other lands, his entire purchase in Attleborough amounting to one hundred and fifty-five acres, including the iron works. He lived in the "chapel" house, and during his residence of twenty or more years in town he identified himself thoroughly with the people of his vicinity and took an interest in their civil and religious concerns. As a token of his personal regard and appreciation, he gave in his will a legacy to the then pastor of the Second Church, Rev. Peter Thacher. "For the friendship and good will I bear the Rev. Peter Thacher of Attleborough, I give him £30, lawful money, to be

paid him by my Executors herein after named out of my estate within one year after my decease."

The records mention five children of Mr. Cobb: Thomas, of Taunton, to whom on January 22, 1765, he sold all his lands in that place; Jonathan, to whom on the same date he sold "My mansion house, etc. in Attleborough, all which I bought of Robert Lightfoot, John Merritt, Hezekiah Peck, Amos Sweet, and Benjamin Sweet"; David; and two daughters. David was born here September 14, 1748, a quite conclusive proof that his father was then carrying on the iron works either as superintendent for Lightfoot or by lease for himself. He held a greater diversity of public occupations and number of offices than any other living man in that age and discharged them all with honor and credit. He became a physician, a general, a judge, was President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, member of Congress one term, Councillor, and Lieutenant-Governor.[1] He married Eleanor Bradish by whom he had a large family of children, and he died in 1830 at the advanced age of eighty-two. Mr. Cobb's two charming and attractive daughters, Hannah and Sally, were regarded as accomplished ladies and ornaments to society.

Though Mr. Cobb disposed of his property here to one of his sons he continued his residence in town for some years, but finally removed to Taunton.

The history of any house would not be complete without romances, and the "chapel" annals do not lack in that regard. Here the Rev. Josiah Crocker, an eminent clergyman of Taunton, found a wife. He was the sixth minister of the First Church of Taunton and the progenitor of the prominent family of that name there at the present day. In Mr. Crocker's "Family Bible" is the following record: "Attleborough, Nov. 5th, 1761. Then were Josiah Crocker and Miss Hannah Cobb joined together in the solemn covenant of matrimony at her father's, by the Hon. George Leonard, Esq. May God's countenance shine upon us. Rev. Mr. Thacher made the first prayer and gave advice, Col. Leonard declared us married according to law, and Rev. Mr. Weld made last prayer."[2]

This was doubtless a brilliant affair and an event of great importance in the town. We should read with eager interest a description of this occasion. We would like to see the names of the chief guests, know what was the dress of the bride, scan a list of the marriage gifts, even to be informed what viands composed the wedding feast. We would read with pleasure the words of good advice spoken by the reverend pastor, learn how the courtly "Judge" pronounced the couple "man and wife," and hear in what solemn, formal phrase congratulations were offered; but the curtain has long since fallen upon every actor in this scene, and of these details the past yields no record.

Nine years after this a famous young man here wooed and won his bride.

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[1] See Ministry of Taunton, vol. I, p. 236. [2] See Blake's Ministry of Taunton, vol. I, p. 337.

On the records of publications of marriage I find the following: "The Intentions of Marriage between Robert Treat Paine, Esq. of Taunton, and Miss Sally Cobb of Attleborough were entered the 3d day of March, 1770." It is a great honor to have any special connection with the Declaration of Independence, and our town may claim with pride that one of its signers married his wife here, though she was only an adopted daughter.

No special record of this wedding comes to us beyond the fact that it was attended by Rev. Mr. Thacher, but it surely must have been quite as brilliant as its predecessor and have had fully as long a line of distinguished guests.

The celebrated groom, learned jurist, eminent judge, and patriotic statesman in the trying days of the Revolution, was the son of Rev. Thomas Paine, minister of Weymouth. His mother was a daughter of Samuel Treat, of Connecticut. He was born in Boston, March 11, 1731, and graduated at Harvard College in 1749. He at first studied theology and fitted for the ministry and in 1755 was a chaplain in the army. He visited Europe subsequently on some mercantile enterprise and on his return to Boston studied law. About 1759 he removed to Taunton and there commenced the practice of this profession, in which he became eminent. In 1770 he acted for the attorney-general in the famous trial of Captain Preston for the Boston Massacre of the 5th of March. He was chosen a delegate to the Continental Congress, which convened September 5, 1774, and later he was one of the grand men whose signatures on the glorious Declaration of Independence are our pride and boast. In 1775, after the adoption of the Constitution of Massachusetts, he was appointed the first attorney-general of this State. He was superseded in 1776, but again appointed in 1780, and held the office until 1790. He was a judge of the Superior Court of this State from 1790 till 1804, when he resigned on account of deafness. In 1780 he removed to Boston, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred May 11, 1814, when he had reached the age of eighty-three. His administration of justice was rigid, but just, and his manner on the bench rather stern and severe, but he was a man of strict, sterling uprightness. By his talents, integrity, and learning, he rendered good service to his country in the high offices he held and in the various lofty stations he occupied.

The author does not know the exact date of the removal of the Cobb family from town, but probably the father went to Taunton shortly subsequent to 1770. The next purchaser of the bloomery was a Mr. Robinson, who continued the works for a time and then converted them to the ancient purpose, that of a saw and grist mill. In the early part of the present century the manufacture at present carried on at this spot was commenced, and of the old "Bloomery" and "Chapel" nothing remains. The walls of the old house in its days of glory witnessed many a social assembly, many an elegant entertainment; many distinguished visitors sat around its hospitable board, many honored friends of high and low degree have gathered there, for its

door stood ever wide open, and all who stepped over the threshold received a true welcome from the dwellers within. The author well remembers the house when it had been reduced to a common tenement and its ancient honors and fame had vanished. It was burned in 1849 or 1850 in the night, and thus passed out of sight forever, numbering itself among the host of things that have been. All is now changed here in this pretty spot, and nothing is left to remind us of this long-ago time. The raging furnace and the hiss of heated iron have given place to the humming water-wheel and the clatter of shuttle and loom, and the fine old mansion with its charming occupants is gone, its very existence but a passing, shadowy remembrance.

Quite as striking as the changes about the site of the old iron works are those which have taken place in the East village and its vicinity since the early part of this century. At that time the Ingraham house stood on the corner now occupied by the residence of the late Charles E. Hayward[1] and was moved back toward the river to its present site, to make room for that residence. There was no other dwelling-house on that side of the road between it and the present centre of the village. About where Dr. Bronson's house now stands there was a small grocery store, kept by Amos Walton, and just above there was a blacksmith's shop. The grocery was moved away to make room for Squire Bolkcom's house, the first dwelling-house on that corner. It was built very near if not exactly upon the site of the one now there, and Orville Bolkcom lived in it for some time and up to 1850, when it was burned down. Probably the next house built on that side of the road was the building so long used as a double tenement-house standing next to the residence of Mr. Fisher, now behind Crandall's Block. Opposite Bolkcom's was the Gideon Sweet house, which stood there until quite recently and was moved away to give place to Bates Opera House. It was built for a tavern, but was never used as such. The bar, however, was left in its place until the Rev. Mr. Crane became the occupant of the house and had it removed. The then owner of this property was Mr. Sanford, the father-in-law of Mr. Crane. Later Mr. Jonathan Bliss owned it; his heirs retained it for some time after his death, and finally, after passing through other hands, it passed into those of the present owner, Mr. Bates.

The space between South Main Street and Railroad Avenue, now occupied by Horton and Pierce blocks and various small buildings, was very early owned by one Jonas Richardson, a physician, then by Abijah Everett, also a physician, who practised in this vicinity for a number of years. He sold to Jabez Ellis, and he in turn to Amos Wilmarth, and not very long afterwards probably the estate came into the hands of Colonel Bolkcom, who kept a tavern on the spot for a number of years. It was pretty generally known

[1] Now the property of Mr. Fred. A. Newell, who is making alterations and improvements and will occupy it as his own residence.

as a place of amusement. A hall was built during Colonel Bolkcom's occupation, which was used for various purposes, balls, singing schools, lyceums, society meetings, etc. This was the only public hall in this part of the town where the young and gay of a past generation were taught the graces of dancing under the inspiring strains of Obed Robinson's violin. This, too, was the principal courtroom of that day, where civil and criminal cases were tried. Sheriff's juries were more common in that day. Many of the distinguished advocates of a past generation have appeared in that hall. The voices of William Baylies, Judge Wheaton, of Norton, Judge Warren, of New Bedford, Cushman, of Pawtucket, and other lawyers of the day, have been heard there. The riot which occurred during the construction of the railroad has been referred to, when the Washington Rifle Company, under Captain Holman, turned out. This was done under the direction of Sheriff Sweet. The warrant was executed in Canton, and twelve or fifteen of the rioters were arrested and brought to this town for their trial, which doubtless took place in Bolkcom's Hall, and a number of the most active in the riot were *bound over* — committed to Taunton jail to appear before the Grand Jury. Colonel Bolkcom was a widely known man in his day. He was social and generous. He was kind to the poor and did many friendly deeds. It is said that particularly fat and tender turkeys frequently found their way from his larder to the minister's kitchen. He was a man of considerable ability, and for three years consecutively, 1811, 1812, and 1813, he represented the town in the General Court. A small portion of his famous old inn still remains near the western corner of the lot on which it stood, a part of the house so long occupied by Dr. Sanford.

To the east of the property just mentioned was quite early the house known later as the Hodges house. This was built by Betsy Hicks, and in it she kept a beer and cigar shop, and beyond this still was a blacksmith's shop, at one time kept by Colonel Bolkcom, who also at one time owned a small machine shop which stood on the present site of the Wolfenden Dye Works. On the north side of the road where Briggs' Block now is, there stood a small building containing a harness and a tailor's shop; and where the church now stands, on a part of the "meeting-house lot," was the Franklin schoolhouse, "a little old fashioned building painted yellow." Crossing the common halfway, one came to the first church building, with its attendant row of horse sheds and its even then ancient horse block, round which, in its day, we may be certain the manly youths did congregate whenever pretty riders approached to dismount. Beyond the common one came to the Holman house. Seventy years ago these mentioned were probably all or very nearly all of the buildings in the village, but gradually and continually they have increased until now through the centre almost every foot of land is occupied. Deacon Wales' house and blacksmith's shop on County Street have long been one of the landmarks, and the house where Mr. Joseph

Capron lives has been built sixty-five years, and nearly as long ago the schoolhouse gave its place to the church.

At one time Otis Capron and Capron Peck owned thirty acres in the centre of the village, that upon which Horton Block stands and from there on south to the Jesse Carpenter farm. They sold off some of this to the Railroad House Company, who built a shop on it for use during the construction of the railroad, which was later burned down. The house on Union Street lately occupied by Nathan C. Luther was built and used for a boarding-house for the men who then worked on the railroad. This same company owned what was called the Temperance Hotel. The members were Jonathan Bliss, N. W. Sanford, and Daniel Carpenter. They erected the Bank building, now a part of Park Hotel, and they also formed the original Steam Power Company. Afterward Leprilete Sweet and Virgil Capron bought the portion of their property held under that name. The old Bolkcom tavern passed into many different hands. After Colonel Bolkcom, Moses Richardson became its owner, then Moses Wilmarth. It was also at one time the property of Jonathan Bliss & Co., of Lyman W. Dean, and lastly of Dr. Edward Sanford, who left it a few years since to occupy his new residence across the street.

About where the Murray Church now stands stood at one time a house known as the Cheney house, and quite a distance farther south was the Daniel Carpenter house, which is still owned and occupied by some of his descendants bearing the same name. On this same side of South Main Street a large amount of land was for many years owned by Leprilete Sweet. His farm was well conducted and he was a prosperous man. He was a large cranberry grower and was the first farmer in town to introduce the process of making cranberry land and of especially cultivating the fruit in that way. Previously the cranberry meadows had been pretty much left to themselves, little assistance having been given to nature. Mr. Sweet was very successful with this new process as Mr. Alger has since been so signally. Opposite Mr. Sweet's was the Jesse R. Carpenter farm, under his care a model of thrift and neatness. He for many years had a large butchering establishment on the place. In the house until within a few years the old brick oven was regularly if not exclusively used, and cheese at least sufficient for family use was made. Both these farms have been very much "cut up" and made into small lots, which have been sold and built upon, and they are now a part of the village.

Leaving the village and passing up North Main Street, at the earliest time of which we write there was not a single dwelling on the right-hand side of the road between the centre and "Brady's corner," but some sixty or seventy years ago a house was built on that side — the Pardon Bailey house, and probably the first erected — which was known later as the Carpenter house, later entirely remodeled as the Rodolphus Bliss house, and is now the property and residence of Dr. James M. Solomon. In the yard attached to this

house stood a little shop occupied by one Edmund Barney, and it is said this was the first place where jewelry was ever made in the East village. About half a mile from "Bolkcom's corner," on the same side with the Ingraham house was an old house with a gambrel roof, which we find there still, standing where it has stood these scores upon scores of years, its right to retain possession of its ancient site almost disputed by the Branch Railroad, which crosses the street here nearly grazing one corner, and which did totally demolish the little unpainted building on the opposite side where Polly Woodcock, something of a "character" and a terror to many a small child, lived a long time. "Polly's" house was called "the shop," for it was built as such, and it is said that the first power loom in the country was built in it.

This is not the original Peck house but was bought and moved here, exactly when is not known, but doubtless much more than a hundred years ago. The first house stood, it is thought, a little nearer the pond, just about where the track was laid west of the present one, that position being indicated from the old well as found by the railroad company. That older house was attached to the L of the present one at right angles, running south, and remained until a few years ago. It was long used as a wash house, and in it years ago were kept the great meal bins and the ponderous looms. It must have been built by Hezekiah Peck, the first of this town, who settled here soon after 1700.

The founder of this family in this country came here in 1638 and settled in Hingham, this State. He with others fled from persecution, bringing their pastor, Robert Peck, his brother, with them. The town clerk of Hingham speaking of this Mr. Peck says: "Mr. Joseph Peck, and his wife, with three sons and daughter, and two men servants, and three maid servants, came from Old Hingham, and settled at New Hingham." They came over in the ship Diligent, of Ipswich. Mr. Peck was of that class called gentry in England, whose rank is next to that of baronet, and they are entitled to coat armor, etc. His fifth child, Nicholas, settled in Seekonk — or Rehoboth — and became a man of great prominence there. He was one of the original proprietors of the Rehoboth North Purchase and his name is frequently found on the early records, is often mentioned in this book. By his will, dated October 2, 1707, and "in the sixth year of her Majestie's Reign," he gives to his son Hezekiah his "sixth allotment drawn in the Rehoboth North purchased lands which appears by record," etc. The father died in 1710, and it would seem that he antedated his will in regard to this land and gave it to his son before his death, for there is a record showing that on December 23, 170–, this Hezekiah had land laid out to him in payment of land taken from his lot for a road. This road is the Boston Road or the "East Bay Road," of which North Main Street is a part, and it seems safe to conclude that the "sixth allotment" above mentioned must have included the present Peck lands on both sides of that street. Hezekiah sold his lands in Rehoboth (or Seekonk) in 1705 and removed to Swansey, where he lived for a time, and

then came to this town and, according to the above date, before 1710. In 1713 more lands were laid out to him on Bungay plain. December 25, 1721, a small piece was laid out to him lying "at the South West end of great Bungay meadows, it Being a small gore of land Lying in a three square manner Bounded Northward Pecks own land and on Coopers Southward and Abraham Commins on the East side." In 1724 one John Peck came into possession of lands laid out on the east side of the river, and the northerly and easterly bounds of one of these lots are described as the "Land of the Heirs of Hezekiah Peck Deceast until It Comes to the South West Corner of the old Home lot of Sd Hezekiah Peck," and another boundary mentioned is land of John Sweet. This would probably be in the vicinity of what is now Mechanics, those of that name having early owned lands there.

Hezekiah married Deborah Cooper and they had eight children. Of these Hezekiah was fourth and the oldest son. He married Elizabeth Carder and remained on the home place. He died in 1753 and was buried near his father and mother in the family burying ground. He had ten children, and it may naturally be conjectured that he found the old house rather too contracted for his large family to grow in and that he purchased the present house, adding it to his former dwelling. If this conjecture is true, then it has occupied its present position over a hundred and fifty years. Hezekiah, third child and oldest son of the above, followed in his father's footsteps and remained at home. He married Ann Skinner, of Mansfield, and they had four children. Of these Jonathan was the third son and youngest child. He remained on the homestead and became a highly respected man and prominent in the public affairs of his community. His wife was Sabra Capron. They had four sons, but all died young excepting the oldest, Capron, who resided all his life in town, though only a portion of it in the old home. He was connected with the cotton factory at the Falls at one time and lived in the house now occupied by H. N. Daggett, and the little hill back of it is called from him "Peck's mountain." He at length purchased the house on the corner of North Main and Sanford streets, which was built by Dr. Savery, and resided there for many years until his death. He married Lydia Daggett, sister of the author of this book, and they had twelve children. Of this large family only four lived to maturity, three daughters — Sabra, Sally, and Lydia — and one son, Jonathan. He was born in this town November 25, 1829. His early life was spent chiefly at home, but during the Civil War he was in the employ of the government at various places. His subsequent life was passed chiefly at the South and West, the choice of localities being partially on account of his health, which rendered it necessary for him to avoid the rigors of a New England climate, for many years of his life were a fight with that dreadful disease so often termed our "curse." He latterly became interested in some ranches at the far West and in cattle raising. He married and had two children. The elder, a son, died at the age of three; the

younger, Mary Lydia Peck, is living in Ohio. Mr. Peck died while on a visit to his home, September 21, 1881, the last male member of the family.

Mr. Capron Peck and his wife, as is rarely the case, lived to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding. A house full of relatives and friends met in their pleasant home to greet and congratulate them on that happy occasion — in June, 1874 — the last anniversary, as it proved, of their married life. During his long residence in the East village Mr. Peck was active and prominent in church and parish affairs and in those of the community, and he held various local offices. He died September 7, 1874, aged seventy-seven years, seven months, and three days, and Mrs. Peck died February 2, 1882, aged seventy-nine years, three months, and sixteen days.

Her death was the ending of a life full of years and "full of good works and alms deeds which she did." Her days were occupied with the homely cares, the homely duties of life, for her deepest feelings were centred in her family; but the whole community surrounding her was her "neighbor," and she dwelt in it not to be ministered unto but to minister to others in their times of need. How many kind words she said! How many kind acts she performed! How many wearisome burdens she helped troubled souls to bear! Never too busy, never too tired to respond to calls for aid, during many years she went again and again to the bedside of sickness and to the chamber of death. Her charity was the purest the world ever knows, for in giving it she gave of herself. How much pain she lessened, how much grief she soothed, how many aching hearts she comforted, how many times her willing feet crossed the threshold of stricken homes carrying consolation and hope, will never be known until the Book of Life gives up its hidden records by-and-by. Sweet, gentle, motherly, all who knew her loved her, young or old. Unselfish and loving in her nature, she was forgetful of self and mindful of others. She did her every duty quietly, she bore her every sorrow silently; when these were all done and the last blow of bereavement decreed had fallen upon her aged head, one by one the loosened cords binding her to earth gave way, and soon with her usual gentle calmness she passed on to the other world. In the best sense of the word "Aunt" Peck was a good woman. Such a Christian life as hers is a blessing to the community in which it is lived, and its influence is felt in ways we wot not of and to far wider bounds than she in her modest humility ever dreamed, because such helpful deeds as she so often did are those little things which go to make up the great sum total of effort for the good of needy humanity, and each one whether known or unknown is a benefit to the world.

There are very few, if any, other cases in town where any portions of the original allotments of the proprietors of the North Purchase have been retained in the same family and under the same name up to the present time, as appears conclusively to be the case with some of this old Peck farm. A part of this land must have come into the possession of Ensign Nicholas Peck over two

hundred years ago, and six generations of his descendants and name have dwelt on the same spot. Though it may and it is to be hoped that it will remain in the family for many generations to come, in the natural order of events its ownership must during the days of the coming generation be vested in another name, since no male descendant of the line which has owned it so long survives. So one by one ancient landmarks pass away, and so one by one old and once numerous families are becoming extinct within our borders.

For a great many years a dwelling-house has stood on the site of Philip Brady's residence at the intersection of West with North Main Street, and about two miles north on the latter street — formerly the "Old Bay Road," now frequently termed the "New Boston Road" — the old Daggett homestead still stands. This was built about 1721 and was used as an inn in the days of stages over this post road. Its old sign is still in existence. Scattered here and there over the eastern part of the town there are still other ancient dwellings, but here as elsewhere they are fast disappearing.

Banfield Capron once owned a great amount of land in this part of the town, the saying in regard to him being that he bought "all the land between Bungay river and the Falls." This saying must be somewhat discounted, but that he owned very large tracts of land is well known. According to the author he owned where Joab Daggett lived — on the Bay Road — and one of his granddaughters, Diodema Capron, who married a Barrows, lived in a house which stood in an open space on the south side of the mill road near where it joins the New Boston Road. Besides those lands which he bought, Mr. Capron had the Callender lands from his wife. Some of these were, it is said, on the south side of the river, but the Callender house stood where Mr. Brady's now stands. One of his descendants — probably Joseph Capron, Jr., a grandson, and the grandfather of Joseph W. Capron — built the house long occupied by the late Deacon Joseph M. Newcomb, and that portion of the original lands has been in the family for over two hundred years, for Mrs. Newcomb was a descendant of Banfield Capron. Five generations have occupied the place. The land purchased by Jonathan and George Bliss at the Farmers was a portion of the Capron farm, and a part near by is now owned and occupied by descendants — the family of the late Sumner E. Capron. [This portion has since been sold.]

Among the families which came to this town early was that of Bishop, several members of it having come from Salem in 1703. One of the brothers was Joseph, elsewhere named, and his son Zepheniah married Sarah Stone, granddaughter of Rev. Samuel Newman, the first minister of Rehoboth. His farm was near the easterly line of the town, running to the Chartley Brook, and in 1766 he built the house which still remains on it. He had eleven children. Members of this family were prominent in town affairs during the Revolution and a number were in active service. The names of at least six different ones may be found in the lists of volunteers from the town at that

time, and one or two were in more than one expedition. Two were taken prisoners. One of these, Zepheniah, above mentioned, died on board the prison ship Jersey, off New York harbor; and the other, Hezekiah, lived to be paroled. On the Bishop farm many guns were forged which acted their part in the war for Independence. Zepheniah the second kept the Bishop tavern on the old turnpike, a relay house, and of course a place of "refreshment for man and beast." One Dexter Bishop, who lived in the east part of the town, attained the very advanced age of ninety-six years. He was born in 1780, while the guns of the Revolution were still sounding; and on the day when Fort Sumter was fired upon he, still strong and vigorous at the age of eighty-one, was in the woods, felling trees and hewing timber for sleepers for the Boston and Providence Railroad. His youthful companion and assistant on that day was a grandson, Robert H. Kirk, a skilled carpenter and millwright, who lives in Pawtucket. He has charge of several important public works, among them the dam connected with the city water works. Another grandchild is Mrs. A. F. Lee, of this town. The third Zepheniah Bishop lives near the old homestead.

Another old house is the one owned and occupied by Jacob Briggs at the time of his death. It is supposed to have been built by Caleb Parmenter, who is known to have lived there as early as 1748. Three brothers of that name came to this country and Caleb settled in this town. His wife, Elizabeth, was one of the original members of the Second Congregational Church. In those early days bears frequently came out of the swamp not far from that house, and upon a certain occasion one of them must have ventured too near to suit the comfort or safety of Mrs. Parmenter, so taking down the gun from the ceiling hooks, where guns then rested, she shot him from one of the west windows. Caleb Parmenter, Jr., at the age of eighteen, enlisted in the Revolutionary army and was in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill. He married Elizabeth Rounds, a daughter of Nathaniel Rounds, a Baptist clergyman, who lived in South Rehoboth and who subsequently came to this town and bought the farm known to this generation as the Zenas Carpenter farm. Tradition says that he entertained Whitefield at his home here and that a religious service was held under those grand old elms. Mr. Parmenter was promoted to the rank of captain, and the title was given to him during his entire life. He built the house where Horatio Parmenter now lives and lived there for many years. He and his wife lived together over seventy-two years and attained the remarkable ages of ninety-four and ninety-six years, respectively.

The transformation which has taken place in the North village is quite as astonishing as that of the East village. Starting at "Hatch's" some seventy years ago and walking down on the west side of the road, now Washington Street, one came at once upon a part of the old Garrison house. This yet clings to the spot and looks strong and steady enough to defy old Time himself for many years to come. It is the quaint, comfortable home of

"Aunt" Cynthia Hatch.[1] Next in the early days came the church, which was then where the schoolhouse now is; next was "Grandpa" Tifft's house: and next William Blackinton's, on the site of William D. Whiting's handsome residence. This old house stands directly back of its former site on Broad Street. The next house in order was Ellis Blackinton's on St. Mary's, or the "round house" lot, and still farther south stood Leonard Blackinton's, near the spot occupied by Earl William's market, and then came the dwelling-house of Samuel Guild, next to where Guild's Block is now. The only other house on the west side was the "long house," then owned by Preston Draper. It had been a hotel and subsequently was moved away. About opposite this point on the east side of the way was "Brimstone Corner," as it was formerly called. What gave rise to this name we cannot positively say, possibly the fiery quality of the old-time liquors sold on the spot or the heated tone of the discussions, no doubt frequently held there, may have had something to do with it. On this corner stood the long, low structure known as the Union House, built by Richard Robinson. It was a social gathering-place from far and near and its "dances" were much talked of. It was the rendezvous for the men of its time who enjoyed "club" life, and many tales have been told of those days of sociability, and many amusing stories are current of the "cronies" of the village who were wont to congregate within the "bar." The tavern was finally burned, but not before it had attained a reputation quite as famous in a kindred way as that of "Bolkcom's." The tavern has given place to the hotel, and now the Wamsutta House occupies this spot, and the long, low structure's place is many times filled by a handsome, high, modern block.

Going north from here the first house was Parnell Fisher's, the same now occupied by Silas Aldrich; then came the old parsonage, the house long lived in by "Ma" Day and in which she died. There were one or two stores along the road, and the building in which one of these was kept by "Parson" Forbush now stands on the top of Watery Hill. One Benjamin Chandler had a little store here at one time where, it is said, "everything was sold." His house was not far from the church, and probably the store was near by. Josiah Draper's house stood near Hatch's "or little beyond," and "Uncle" Sam Draper's "was near the river and stood until recently." To the west of Washington Street and south of the well-known "corner," the space now so thickly studded with handsome places and comfortable houses at the period of which we write was a huckleberry pasture, rough and full of shrubs. Now the only unoccupied land on the street is the triangle in front of the Baptist Church and belonging to it.

A few relics of the palmy days of the Hatch House yet remain. An unusually tall and handsome mahogany clock, its case dark and rich-hued

[1] Mrs. Hatch has since died.

with the mellow tints of time, still ticks out the hours in a solemn and dignified manner, as befits a timepiece of its age and experience, for it has stood before exalted personages, and impressive scenes have passed before its view. It was made in England, but by whom is not apparent, the only name upon it being that of a Boston dealer, from whom probably Colonel Hatch purchased it. Its ancient comrade, the great sideboard, still keeps it company, like it, of two shades of real mahogany and having the "tone" which only ripened years are able to bestow. It is very large and has space sufficient to hold all the flasks and decanters which even a hotel dining-room of a century ago might require. It is withal sideboard and writing-desk combined, has its row of pigeon-holes and small drawers, with sliding writing lid below. It was here the mail was kept when Colonel Hatch was postmaster, and the present owner, his granddaughter, not long since accidentally discovered a secret drawer and within it a copy of a Boston newspaper for 1800, with wrapper and address intact. The person to whom it had been sent having never called for it, it had probably been put in that inner drawer for safe keeping and been forgotten, and there it had lain undisturbed for eighty-seven years. The silver stirrups and brass epaulets which Colonel Hatch wore in the War of 1812 and the silver eagle ornament for his horse's breastplate hang by the side of the old hotel sign, while an aged chair and the posts of an ancient bedstead look down upon these from their loftier perches on the opposite wall of the shed, for a lowly roof now protects them. Would they had the powers of speech to recount the history of the days when they were young!

No doubt they all witnessed the occurrences of a certain bright June morning some seventy years ago. A great crowd had gathered about the hotel, sure sign that something unusual was looked for, and presently a fine barouche, drawn by four handsome steeds and "preceded by mounted and uniformed marshals," drove up in dashing style. Of the occupants, one in Continental costume — cocked hat, swallow-tailed coat, short breeches, low shoes, with shining buckles on knee and foot, and lace ruffles falling gracefully over shirt front and hand — received special and marked attention. He was James Monroe, President of these United States, who was making a tour of the middle and eastern States. He was to dine at "Polley's," but halted at the "Steam Boat Hotel" for some light "refreshment." No doubt this consisted of crackers, cheese, and Jamaica rum, and with as little doubt these were of excellent quality. We can imagine with what alacrity and pleasure the model host himself served his illustrious guest, and how proudly the gay sign swayed itself in the breezes of that ever memorable day.

Early in this century a second and rival line of stages was established, and then there were busy times at the hostelries when the fresh relays of horses were brought out, and great were the contests between the hostlers at all these different inns along the route, as to which of them should make the

quickest transfers, thus causing the least delay and helping to make the running time shorter for their respective coaches.

The old pike road was built in 1802, by an incorporated stock company called the Norfolk and Bristol Turnpike Company. The incorporators were Ephraim Starkweather, Oliver S. and Oziel Wilkinson, Eliphalet Slack, Samuel S. and William Blackinton, Israel Hatch, Elijah Daggett, Joseph Holmes, Fisher Ames, James Richardson, John and Timothy Whiting, and Timothy Gay, Jr. It began at the courthouse in Dedham and ran to North Attleborough meetinghouse, then to Pawtucket bridge and Providence in a straight line "as near as may be." It was four rods wide all the way, or rather "not less than four rods wide." There were two toll gates in this town. The running time between Boston and Providence was six hours. Fully seven miles an hour including stops [1] was not slow travel for the four or six horses, though the single "iron horse" can cover the ground nowadays in one sixth of the time.

In the early days, however, there were swifter ways of transmitting messages of importance than by the stages themselves, though electricity had not then as now anything to do with the methods used. Perhaps we have not after all advanced in some ways quite as much as we are prone to think, for, with no steam and no electric fire save that which sparkled in the breasts of stout determined men and through them excited to their utmost exertion willing intelligent steeds, President Jackson's message was "brought through by express riders from Providence to Boston in 2 hours and 45 minutes. It was lashed around a whip handle, thrown from the boat to a rider, who dashed away to ride alongside a waiting relay a few miles on the road, the burden being exchanged at full speed of both horses." [2] One of those fleet horses with his bold, impetuous rider must have dashed through our town over the old pike road, leaving behind him a wake of mysterious wonder, almost dread, like that caused by a solitary engine flashing by on the iron road. This was the true, the admirable American enterprise, which then, now, and ever overcomes all obstacles and, by taking or making means, attains signal success and compasses its desired ends.

It was once necessary for Rehoboth people, if they were called upon to go to Boston, to ride up to Hatch's on horseback and there take the stage; and it is told of Colonel Frederic Drown, of that town, a representative to the General Court, that he used to take his young daughter behind him on his horse, that she might ride the animal back home, a journey for her of over thirty miles and for the most part of extreme loneliness. In Revolutionary days the women often molded the bullets taken by their husbands and sons

[1] It should be remembered that one long halt was made for dinner and that the stages, which were heavy in themselves, were cumbered with baggage, mails, packages, etc., besides the passengers. These things considered, the rate of speed was very creditable.

[2] See *Bristol County Republican* for July 12, 1878. Article copied from *Boston Advertiser*.

when they were called into service, for they were obliged to engage in many occupations in those "days that tried men's souls." The ordinary cabinet-makers of those times were frequently coffin-makers also, and their wives kept "mourning" to let or to lend on funeral occasions. Such was the case with the Colonel Drown above mentioned and his wife, and very probably they may have supplied wants of that kind in this town.

It was the custom among our ancestors before matches were invented, if the kitchen hearth fire burned entirely out, for some member of the family to take a tin lantern and go to a neighbor's in search of the necessary coals to relight it; perhaps in long-forgotten corners of some of the old garrets in town such lanterns may yet be hidden away. The great kitchen fire was in common the only one in the house, the "best parlor" being used only upon occasions of unusual ceremony. Those who are accustomed only to the luxurious steam-heated, brilliantly lighted houses of to-day can scarcely imagine what the temperature of the dwellings of our fathers was or realize the dim twilight which pervaded their "living-rooms" after nightfall. Some are still living who remember when outside doors were never locked, even at night. One of our townsmen says it was the invariable custom of his father's house when he was a young man to leave all doors unbolted, and often, on returning late from some social gathering, he has found his room occupied by a friend, who, feeling too tired to take the longer walk necessary to reach his own home and knowing the ways of the house, had entered after the family had retired and helped himself to lodgings, sure of a welcome. The frequent robberies which have taken place in recent years, in spite of bolts and bars, attest that great changes have taken place in the entire social structure, even in the very neighborhood where this citizen then lived.

At one time mails were brought to this town from Taunton on horseback, and the post rider bestowed "the news" verbally upon whomsoever he met on his way. Mr. Joseph Capron relates that one day between seventy-five and eighty years ago he started for Taunton with his father, with a load of hay or produce. They met the mail-carrier on the way, who announced to them that war with Great Britain had been declared. He rode on to spread the terrible tidings, and the others pursued their journey, but the dire forebodings of all dreadful calamities and the terrible personal fright the boy experienced that day have never been forgotten; as he, now grown old, expresses it: "I have n't got over it yet." To other parts of the town the same announcement must have come over the old turnpike to Hatch's.

There were a number of our citizens who enlisted in the War of 1812, and, as we have seen, the militia companies were called out once or twice; but there are only a very few unsatisfactory records to be found, and tradition has preserved but little to enlighten us regarding the small amount of service which it fell to the town to render. One John Dunham was killed, but accidentally. He was with his company at Fairhaven. Drill was just over and

some man was cleaning a gun, which went off, and the bullet passed through the wall into an adjoining room, killing Dunham, who was sitting there. A man by the name of Jenks enlisted here. He was not a native of this town, "but was courting a girl here." He subsequently deserted, was caught, and suffered the penalty of the law. We are glad he was not an Attleborough man. These are the only incidents we have been able to gather together, besides the references made elsewhere to those who served in this war, in personal sketches, etc.

The mill built by Ingraham & Richardson at Mechanics had not been long finished when, early in 1815, the news came that the treaty of Ghent had been signed and peace declared, and the mill and Mr. Ingraham's house were brilliantly illuminated in honor of this event. Deacon Peter Thacher used to cart goods for this firm to and from New York — a week's trip each way with oxen, though later with horses he could accomplish the journey in somewhat shorter time. Now the same number of hours as the oxen required days is sufficient to enable a traveler to go from one place to the other.

As has been stated, Israil Hatch was the first postmaster in town, and the people from all parts for a considerable time went to his tavern for their mail. Before an office was established in East Attleborough someone from that village rode up on horseback to the "North" biweekly for such mail matter as might be waiting there, and among others Mr. Joseph Capron frequently did this. Now the town has eight or nine mails *daily*, and by the present generation, though continents intervene or "oceans roll between," news, even from the antipodes, which is two weeks old, is considered "stale and unprofitable." The first "post route" established between Boston and New York was as early as 1704. It passed through this town, and the postman at that time doubtless left what few communications there might be for persons of this vicinity at Woodcock's Ordinary. Messages relating to business or other matters were, if of sufficient importance, sent by special carrier; but great events only called for the writing of letters in those days, especially to people living far away from the towns.

In 1789 Colonel Hatch was first appointed postmaster, and he received two subsequent appointments, one in 1805 and another in 1809. How long he retained the office could not be positively ascertained, but it seems probable up to the time of his death, in 1837, for no one recalls another postmaster until that date, when, under President Van Buren's administration, Herbert Draper was appointed. His successor, under Harrison and Tyler, was Albert Barrows; and his again, under Polk, in 1845, was H. M. Richards. Under Taylor and Fillmore, in 1849, W. D. Cotton received the appointment; and under Pierce and also Buchanan, from 1853 to 1861, J. D. Richards held the office. T. R. Jones was appointed under Lincoln and retained the position for more than twenty years, through the administrations of Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, and Arthur. He was thoroughly efficient and filled

the place with entire acceptance to the general community. About a year before the expiration of President Arthur's term Mr. Jones resigned and B. Porter, Jr., was appointed his successor for four years. His term expired May 1, 1888, and J. D. Richards became his successor, the first postmaster appointed in the *town* of North Attleborough. The present quarters of this postoffice in Wamsutta Block are commodious and in a situation convenient to everybody in the village. It is both a registry and money order office and the salary attached amounts to about $1,800 a year.

About 1820 the first postmaster for "East Attleborough"[1] was appointed. Ezra Bassett was the appointee, and he kept the mail in a little office building adjoining the Gideon Sweet house. This was brought to him by the stages running then between Taunton and Providence. He held the position only a few months. Rev. Nathan Holman was next appointed, probably about 1821, and had charge for six years. Samuel Holman attended to the mails, which were kept in a table drawer for distribution. The third appointment was given to Orville Bolkcom, and he had the mail in the tavern probably. One informant says that Bassett kept the mail in Squire Bolkcom's house instead of in his own office, but more probably it was Bolkcom who first kept it there — his father's house — and later he may have transferred it to the tavern. Succeeding him was Colonel Willard Blackinton, who was efficient in this, as in whatever he undertook. He was appointed not much later than 1830 and retained the office several years, until 1836, when Lyman W. Dean took it. The mails still continued to be kept in the tavern, then owned by Mr. Dean. He made various alterations and improvements and introduced boxes for the first time. He also obtained the right to carry the mails to North and West Attleborough after the construction of the railroad, and the postal matter came chiefly by its means. Mr. Dean continued through the terms of Van Buren, Harrison, Polk, and Taylor, and for about four months under Fillmore. Then, in 1850, Nathan C. Luther received the appointment.

Previous to this time the office, fixtures, etc., had been removed to Dean's Hotel, now, enlarged, Park Hotel. This was then the "Bank Building," as it was called, it having been originally erected for the old Attleborough Bank, but after that was removed to North Attleborough its use as such was no longer required. Before its removal the postoffice was in the parlor on the left of the entrance, which was then in the centre of the end toward Park Street, and the rooms of the bank on the right. These afterwards became the postoffice. Mr. Luther resided in the building, occupying a tenement in the upper part of the house, and Mr. Godfrey Wheelock, a well-known

[1] This name, it is said, never properly belonged to the village, though it has long been familiarly so called. It was too often called the "Precinct" or the "East Precinct," but how the first postmaster's commission read has not been ascertained. When the railroad station was built the place received the name of "Attleborough," largely through the instrumentality of the late John Daggett. He would prefer that simple name without any prefix.

resident of the town for many years, lived below. A great many have no knowledge of this building as it was then, but it presented quite an imposing appearance to youthful eyes, with its tall fluted columns, as did the similar one on the rising ground above the road entering the village of North Attleborough, which has been permitted to retain much of its old-time aspect in the midst of its modern surroundings. In 1853 Mr. Dean was reappointed and continued through the terms of Pierce and Buchanan, meanwhile turning the building into the hotel long known by his name and personally conducted by him. The postoffice remained here for a great many years. In 1861 Mr. Luther again assumed its duties and continued them in this place until 1873, when he built a small house near the foot of Bank Street especially for the business of the office, though the second story was arranged as a dwelling. In 1876 he removed the office to Sturdy Building, where the enlarged quarters necessary were obtained, and where for the first time lock boxes were introduced. Mr. Luther discharged his official duties in this position for twenty years to the satisfaction of everybody. In 1881 he resigned, and Abijah T. Wales was appointed in his place, and he in turn was succeeded by the present occupant of the office, Philip E. Brady, appointed in 1886. He has moved the establishment to Bates Opera House, where still larger space is occupied, and additional improvements in the way of fixtures, boxes, etc., have been made. This office is also a registry and money order one and its salary nearly the same as at North Attleborough (1887).

Until within a few years the postal facilities at the Falls were very limited. For a long time a small building stood by the roadside, opposite the residence of Mr. Willard Robinson, into which a bag was tossed from the passing stages. Whoever chose opened this, looked for his own letters and papers, and left the rest of the mail scattered about the floor, to be searched again by anyone who happened along or who thought he wanted a letter; and the Falls village proper did not then fare much better. For a number of years the mail there was kept in the "store," the building which stands facing the road from East Attleborough just where it turns toward the north (whose piazza, from resting very near the ground, makes its appearance somewhat singular). Here Randall Pierce took charge of such mail matter as came to his hands. Finally it was decided by the citizens of this community that a regular postoffice in their midst could not any longer be regarded as a matter of desirable convenience only, but that it had become a matter of urgent necessity; and Handel N. Daggett determined to get one established, if possible. With characteristic promptness he immediately started for Washington. He had an interview with one of our then Congressmen, Mr. Ames, who promised his assistance and made a special appointment in regard to making the presentation of the matter to the proper authorities. At the hour named Mr. Daggett was at the place

designated, but not Mr. Ames, who forgot all about it. Mr. Daggett then sought out our Congressman from Fall River, Mr. James Buffington, who rendered him material assistance. He had taken neither a petition nor a map of the town or village with which to work, but in some way the Gordian knot was cut, and the ball of governmental red tape unwound so rapidly that "between the hours of twelve o'clock noon, and two o'clock in the afternoon," a postoffice was established at the "Falls village in Attleborough, Massachusetts," and the postmaster appointed. In the issue of the *Boston Evening Journal* for that same day an item appeared stating the fact of this establishment and announcing that Joseph J. Freeman was the new postmaster. The exact date of this remarkable transaction has not been ascertained, but it was probably not far from the time of the construction of the branch railroad in 1871. Henry W. Gleason was the successor of Mr. Freeman after a few years, and Will. N. Fisher followed him. His successor, and the present postmaster, is James B. Parsons.

Almost nothing could be obtained in the way of information regarding other offices and other postmasters in town, and the process of getting an accurate list from the Department at Washington would require so much time and labor that it was deemed unwise to make any attempt in that direction. One of the earliest to have the office at South Attleborough was Milton Barrows, who kept it in his "tavern," which stands yet, about three quarters of a mile south of the "city." The mere mention of this old house will call pleasant recollections of a social nature to the minds of not a few of the elders in various parts of the town; for when these same elders were young the sounds of the "fiddle" were most enticing, and they were often heard and merrily responded to in the great dancing-hall at "Barrows'." But no matter how many gathered there in those days when our old people were "boys and girls together," the accommodations were ample for all, and the kitchen and larder equal to every emergency. These country inns are almost all gone, but Barrows' and Newell's houses stay yet in their original places, little changed outwardly, to prove that the tales which have come down to us of "real good times" in "days of yore" are true.

Some few years since, the Department at Washington issued an order for all postoffices to keep an exact account of all the mails sent out during a specified week, and the statistics taken in our town were published in the *Chronicle*. They are the figures given by five offices, Dodgeville being excepted, and include the five classes of mail matter inclusive of postal cards — letters, papers, circulars, and merchandise being the four classes in order. The five offices sent out 4,191 letters, 1,100 postal cards, 809 pieces of second and third class matter, and 186 packages of fourth class matter, making a total of 6,286 pieces. North and East Attleborough offices had of course the largest figures, the latter 88 more letters and 50 more postals; while the former exceeded the latter in the other classes combined by 359

pieces, with a total excess of 221 pieces. If similar statistics could have been procured for the present time, 1887, these figures would probably have been materially increased, though the general introduction of the telephone doubtless keeps the number of letters reduced, especially in the larger offices, as a great amount of business is transacted by its use. In no other way perhaps is the growth of the town shown more clearly than in the lines just indicated — the great increase in the postal facilities demanded, and the almost universal adoption of all the modern means for promoting the prompt and easy conduct of business affairs; and nothing perhaps would more astonish the former inhabitants, if they could return to walk about our streets, than to witness the present modes of managing daily commercial concerns.

CHAPTER XX.

MISCELLANEOUS, CONTINUED.

THE town has been visited by two extraordinary storms of wind. The first, known as "the great September gale," occurred in that month in the year 1815. Buildings were unroofed or utterly demolished, great trees were torn up by the roots, and much serious damage was done. It was during this gale that a schooner was blown up on to Weybosset Street in Providence, to about opposite the postoffice building there. The morning after, Mr. Ezra Ingraham's father rode up to Hatch's to get the mail and it was almost impossible for his horse to pick his way along the roads, they were so full of obstructions. A distillery belonging to Roger Farnum which stood on the south side of what is now Elm Street in North Attleborough was blown down. Of how long it had stood there or how large an amount of business was done in it nothing seems to be known, but it is certain that the great tornado brought it to a violent and tragic end, and no attempts were ever made to set up another. It is possible the owner may have looked upon its destruction in the light of a judgment. No lives were lost in this town, but the author of this work very nearly lost his. He was at the time a lad of ten and with a brother was at work or at play in the "sheep barn" on his father's place. The boys "heard the wind blow," but had no idea of the fury of the gale until they attempted to open the "great door" of the barn and found this utterly impossible to do. They then went to the other end of the barn to the small "sheep door." This was kept closed by a rail or beam leaning against it from without. All efforts here failed for a time, but finally by dint of great exertions in pushing on the door they managed to move the beam just enough to enable them to get out, and they got to the house as quickly as they were able. They had scarcely entered the door in safety when a crashing noise caused them to turn and look out, and lo! the barn they had just the moment before quitted, with so much difficulty, lay on the ground a complete ruin. A resident of "New Boston," some half-mile beyond the Daggett place was heard to declare with assurance "that salt spray dashed against her windows." As the storm came from the south over Narragansett Bay there might have been an odor of the "salt sea" in the air, giving occasion for the "old lady's" statement. There were many occurrences more remarkable than that, had it been true, and the storm was long remembered with a feeling closely akin to terror.

The second gale occurred also in September, in 1869. It came suddenly and lasted for some hours, but raged with less fury and for a shorter time

than the former one, and the damage was less severe. Many beautiful and valuable trees, however, were uprooted, and among these one of the three notably large and handsome ones near the Tiffany house. There were some amusing as well as thrilling incidents. Among the former was a story told of an unfortunate calf, which, after the storm had abated, was found astride the ridgepole of a low shed upon which he had been blown, and the iron chain with which he had been fastened to a stake was still attached to his halter. A good many people who were caught out in this gale had narrow escapes, but no one in this town sustained any serious injury. To watch the progress of this storm was an experience never to be forgotten. The noise of the winds was "like the sound of rushing, mighty waves," like the ungovernable raging of angry waters. Great trees reeled and tottered like a drunkard, recovered themselves for a brief instant, and then fell with a crash that shook the earth; and houses whose foundations were thought to be almost immovably fixed, with stanch oak timbers and the heaviest of beams, swayed and shivered, as an aspen sapling trembles in a summer breeze. Wave after wave of wind swept on with frightful, bellowing roar, then suddenly an utter, awful silence would fall upon everything, while the elements gathered themselves together to rush on in yet mightier power, a more dreadful torrent of destruction than before. The commotion was appalling, and the awe and terror produced were heightened because the agency was invisible. It seemed as if the controlling power of the universe had for a moment stayed His hand and as if the destroying fiends thus let loose upon the earth were hurling themselves hither and thither in uncontrolled fury, a fearful "besom of destruction," shrieking and howling in fierce, wild delirium as they worked their devilish will. The whole scene was grand but too terrible, and those who looked upon it never wish to see its like again.

Before leaving entirely the familiar reminiscences of earlier days, it seems appropriate to make mention of a social club which had quite a flourishing existence in the east part of the town fifty or sixty years ago. It had but few members and only one is living, but he not long since recalled its days with pleasure. It was called the "Bachelors' Club." As the name indicates, only unmarried men could become members. The meetings were held in the office of one Mr. Bedford, "an Englishman and a jeweler." This "office" was a small building some half-mile or more perhaps "down the Norton road," on the place owned by Timothy and later Ferdinand Bolkcom, and the entertainment provided for the club, we are told, was "a keg of rum, or a barrel of cider, with crackers and cheese." One particular incident of the latter days of the club has often been related in later years. One of the by-laws very appropriately prohibited the members from visiting young ladies, the consequences following upon the indulgence in such a course of action being naturally considered detrimental to the welfare of the club as tending very materially to lessen its members. Upon one occasion it was ascertained

beyond a doubt that Mr. Orville Bolkcom had called upon a certain young lady, and the dignity of the club of course demanded a thorough investigation of the matter. The fact was reported to the officers by another young lady, probably a friend of the one who had been guilty of causing the infringement of rules, and who looked upon it as a grave offence, and they determined to have a trial "according to law."

Necessary arrangements were completed with all possible secrecy and dispatch, and upon the appointed evening the clubroom was filled to overflowing; all the members were present and outsiders whose presence was necessary to the proper conduct of the case. Who the judge and jury were is not known, but the author was clerk. Some inkling of the matter had reached the ears of the delinquent, and it was with great difficulty that he was persuaded to "attend a club meeting" upon that particular evening. His presence obtained, however, the court was called to order, and the trial proceeded with great solemnity and ceremony. The informer was chief witness, a sister of one of the members and possessed of the same fun-loving nature and the same power of relating facts or fancies with telling effect. Hers was not the only testimony taken, but it was so ample even in minute details that it was sufficient of itself to prove a decided case against the accused, who, in the face of it, or possibly on account of his indignation at having fallen into the trap so cleverly laid for him, attempted to say very little in his own defence. In due time the jury retired, but the evidence was so overwhelming it required but little discussion, and they soon returned to the courtroom with a unanimous verdict of "Guilty in the highest degree." The judge at once pronounced the sentence with becoming gravity and awarded the punishment, which provided that the guilty party "should visit the young lady as often as he pleased." Thus ended the "mock trial" which was locally so famous and caused so much merriment in the recitals of after years. Mr. Bolkcom married soon after this, but we think not the young lady in question; the author followed his example before very long, and somewhat later Major Holman. He was the last to retain his membership in the letter as well as the spirit, and the club died a natural death when all of its members were finally turned from bachelors into benedicts.

Two disasters on Long Island Sound have touched the people of our town closely. About twenty years ago the steamer Metis was wrecked and cast ashore at Watch Hill, Conn., and Miss Augusta Perry, for many years one of our successful teachers, a person whom none knew but to respect and love, was drowned. A strange fate befell her after death. She was identified as another person, and her body was sent to Pawtucket, where it was prepared for burial, arrayed in garments befitting a bride, and thence sent to her supposed family in New York State. There the mistake was discovered and she was sent back to her own town and people to be buried.

June 12, 1880, will long be looked back upon in Attleborough as a day of

great calamity. On the night preceding, about midnight, the steamer Narragansett collided with the steamer Stonington near Cornfield Light. The evening had been pleasant; "an hour before was beautiful," though some say that previous to the accident a fog had arisen, which at the time had become dense. Be that as it may, the passengers one and all attribute the occurrence to gross carelessness, and one at least from our town expresses the cause with one short word of three letters, the same which has often been found underlying many a wholesale disaster and ruin. The Stonington struck the Narragansett about amidships, and through "the gaping cleft, the ravenous waters rushed to devour their prey"; and to make the horrid process more complete fire speedily burst forth to their assistance. On the ill-fated steamer the shock was terrible; partitions were crushed out and berths splintered into a thousand fragments. Before it could be fully realized the water was foot-deep over the saloon deck, and in ten minutes the boat's keel had struck the bottom. In as short a time three steamers had come to her assistance, but notwithstanding all their earnest efforts many perished. The Stonington picked up a number of the drowning passengers, but a large hole in her side below the water line made the danger of her sinking so great that she transferred the most of those she rescued to the City of New York. These steamers remained in the vicinity as long as any living persons were to be found, and then pursued their courses, rendering meanwhile all the assistance that could be rendered to such of the nearly perished ones as they had taken on board.

Twelve of the passengers on the Narragansett were on their way to this town, and most of them were residents. They were James J. and Edwin J. Horton, Simeon Bowen, Milton Blackinton, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goudier, P. M. Carpenter, Robert Fulton, Mrs. Frederick Stilson with two young children, coming to her family home, and Miss Martha Perry, coming on a visit to friends. No boat train passed through on the morning of the twelfth, and there began to be some questioning as to the reason, which was tinged with anxiety, and at half-past eight o'clock the first rumors came. These were conflicting and told nothing with certainty but the fact of an accident, and that several Attleborough people were en route for home. The anxiety had now become general; people could not set themselves to work, but they gathered in throngs about the depot to get upon the instant every scrap of information the wires might bring. The first "ray of light" in the deepening gloom of uncertainty was a telegram from Mr. Bowen; and soon after, about midday, he arrived, with Mr. Blackinton and Miss Perry on the same train. Great was the relief at their arrival, but they brought no tidings of the other missing ones, and the fears for their safety were redoubled. Messages of inquiry were repeatedly sent to every place where it was thought possible to obtain news, but no answers came; and, as hour after hour dragged slowly on, suspense deepened to agony, and hope almost

abandoned itself to despair. From half-past eleven until after four o'clock in the afternoon not a word came over the wires to relieve the terrible doubts and fears. Then the safe arrival of Mr. James Horton, Mr. Carpenter, and Mrs. Stilson in New York was announced, but the joyful intelligence had a heavy coloring of sadness in the accompanying statement that Mr. Edwin Horton and the two children were missing. Later came the announcement of the safety of Mr. and Mrs. Goudier, and all were thus in some manner heard from with the exception of Mr. Fulton.

Individual experiences differed greatly, but all were sufficiently harrowing. Mr. Bowen in spite of the wild disorder, the aimless rushing to and fro of dazed and frightened people, managed to make his way to the bow of the boat, and here for about two hours he contrived to keep a hold and was then taken off in a small boat by the captain and clerk of the steamer.

Mr. Blackinton's first experience of the collision was in being thrown from his berth in the lower cabin. He dressed quickly and went to the upper deck, where he found the confusion "indescribable." He attempted to go back to the cabin to get a life-preserver, but finding that impossible returned to the deck and stayed by the wheel-house. When almost everybody had jumped overboard he found a life-preserver without strings. He, however, took it with him when he jumped into the water and it buoyed him up until he found a floating board, which served him better. His efforts were directed toward reaching the Stonington, and when he had succeeded in getting near he was picked up by a small boat and taken on board, where he received the best of care and where he remained until he took the cars for home.

Mr. and Mrs. Goudier both had thrilling experiences. He heard the pilot's order to the engineer to reverse the engines, and this was instantly followed by the crash. Both were thrown from their berths and it was with difficulty they got out of their stateroom, for the lights were put out by the encounter. Mr. Goudier went back for their clothing, some of which they managed to put on, but neither had shoes or stockings. They reached the main deck together, but the water was then waist high and the boat rapidly sinking. Seeing an officer with a life-preserver near, Mr. Goudier asked for it for his wife. It was refused him. A gentleman at once stepped forward, took off his and fastened it about Mrs. Goudier, quietly saying he would take his chance. To this noble, chivalrous man Mrs. Goudier owed her life; and her gratitude has been none the less earnest that she has not been able to express it, for she never learned even his name. At this juncture a colored man standing by her told her to jump overboard, but she was afraid to do this, so he offered to jump with her if she would hold him by the hand. Just then some one said: "Put her in the life-boat." This was accordingly done; but by a sudden jerking of the ropes, as she was the only person in the boat, she was thrown out and into the water. She became unconscious, and on reviving found herself in a small boat. Seeing a lady in the water alongside

holding up a baby, Mrs. Goudier took it, handed it to the gentleman next her, and then seized the neck of the lady's dress and assisted her to place her elbow over the edge of the boat, thus by her presence of mind saving two lives. She fainted again, but continued to clutch tightly the dress of the person she was holding up. This boatload were taken on board the City of New York, where the kindest treatment and the most efficient aid possible were given to all the sufferers by both crew and servants. Mr. Goudier had seen the life-boat launched, and with the aid of two men had placed his wife near it, bidden her get in, and said "Good-by." Just then a woman clinging to a mattress begged him to save her little boy. He tried to reach the child, but something knocked him senseless. When he came to himself the woman and child had both disappeared, and he was obliged to save himself from fast approaching flames. He finally reached the steamer's bow, where he spoke with Mr. Bowen. Between thirty and forty people were there at the time, and in imminent danger of being driven off by the burning pilot-house. A slight protection was afforded by dipping blankets in the water to hold up between themselves and the flames. After a time some thirty or more of these persons were taken off in a boat, Mr. Bowen being of the number. A half-hour later perhaps, the eight or nine who remained were also taken off, and Mr. Goudier was the very last to leave the wreck for this rescuing boat. All were taken to the City of New York, where Mr. Goudier at once commenced a search for his wife. This was for some time fruitless, and he supposed her to be lost; but presently a gentleman accosted him and on learning his name took him to the steward's room, where she lay well cared for but still unconscious. When consciousness returned, the steward with great kindness provided a stateroom for them, saying it would "be more comfortable."

The Horton brothers were in a stateroom on the side of the steamboat which was struck. Mr. James Horton's berth was knocked from under him, and the adjoining stateroom splintered into a thousand fragments. Looking through this he "saw the lights of a passing steamer." Realizing what had happened he, yet with great self-control, forced himself to dress entirely, even to his necktie, for he appreciated the necessity for calmness in facing such extreme danger as he felt certain had overtaken them. His brother also dressed entirely, and together they went out, passing Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. Stilson in the saloon. They went on to the outside, and there together still they assisted at putting life-preservers on some of the women. Most of the company gathered there went overboard, and suddenly Mr. Horton lost sight of his brother, whom he never saw again in life, and of Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. Stilson also, who had not been far off. He then climbed up on to the hurricane deck, two men giving him a helping hand. At this time men were launching the life-raft, so he slid down the bulwarks and as it came near swung off, "caught it, and got on." He stayed upon the raft two hours, when he was placed on the Stonington, but subsequently was taken to the

City of New York and to New York, returning home from there by train. Mr. Horton calls the man who had charge of this raft, he thinks the second mate of the wrecked steamer, a hero. He did all a single man could do to save life and bravely kept near the Narragansett in spite of the fire and all the floating obstructions as long as he could find anyone to take on to the raft.

Miss Perry's experiences were very thrilling. She heard a crash, which was followed by total darkness in the ladies' cabin. Some one brought in a lantern, and she tried to light the gas but could not. She dressed, and a gentleman assisted her to put a life-preserver on. Then another crash came and with it a great volume of water which was soon shoulder high. She made her way out of the saloon and tried to reach the gateway, but the water swept her off the steamer to a distance of about thirty feet and near to a life-boat. She caught a rope, clung to it for a while, and was then swept back to the steamer. She climbed upon a rail and clung to that until she saw a chance to get to a raft, and plunging into the water was pulled upon it. It was the same onto which Mr. Horton had been taken; but Miss Perry remained upon the steamer Stonington, which put back to Stonington town, and from there she took the train for this town. Much kindness was shown to such of the sufferers as were taken there by the people of that place. Seeing that Miss Perry had no hat, some generous woman took off the bonnet from her own head and tied it upon hers.

Mr. Carpenter, like all who were asleep, was awakened by the awful crash of the collision and partially dressing himself left his stateroom to ascertain the cause. Mrs. Stilson joined him and they attempted to go forward, but were prevented by smoke. This was not more than ten minutes after the two steamboats collided. Turning back, before they could cross the saloon, "the smoke and fire came up the gangway in a perfect whirl." Then all the lights suddenly went out, sure proof that great danger was imminent. Then they tried to reach the stateroom where the children were, but the heat and smoke made it quite impossible. They managed to get to the stern of the boat, where some people were to be seen. Here they became separated, and Mr. Carpenter went into the water. He swam away from the steamer in order not to get pulled under by the people who were constantly jumping overboard at that time. The water was so cold as to soon chill him thoroughly, but he remained in it from that time, a little after twelve o'clock, until a quarter past two. After a time he found a small bit of plank and later another piece, and these he held together and so managed to keep his head above water. At one time a woman floated near him and she begged his assistance in holding her head up. He did the best he could for her, pushing away a beer keg which kept hitting her head, and he tried to encourage her to believe she would be picked up by someone. Something in the water struck against his leg and lamed him, but presently he caught a

floating chair, got his legs around its back and held on to it as tightly as he could. After this he must have become unconscious as he remembered little else with distinctness until he found himself on the City of New York. When found he was holding the chair so firmly that it was with considerable difficulty his grasp was loosened.

Mrs. Stilson's experience was as trying to nerve and soul as anyone could have. She was aroused from partial sleep by the dreadful shock and at once deemed the occurrence, whatever it was, serious. She immediately went to Mr. Carpenter's door and spoke to him. He answered her call and then she returned to her own room, dressed partially, and with Mr. Carpenter went to find out what had happened, locking her stateroom door. Like many others she testified to hearing no orders from officers and to seeing no attempts on their part to quiet the panic or direct the terrified people in regard to chances of saving themselves. Seeing the situation her first thought was for her children, and with Mr. Carpenter she started for her room. All attempts to reach them were fruitless, and she soon realized that she must abandon them to their fate — death either by fire or water. Very soon she lost sight of her companion, and presently she was washed overboard. Seeing a rope she contrived to get hold of it and with its help to climb upon the deck, where she found a life-preserver and fastened it on. The thought came to her that unless she made strenuous exertions her husband would surely have to mourn the loss of wife and children both, and she must therefore do all her frail strength allowed to prevent this and save herself, and the thought nerved her to efforts that were almost superhuman. She climbed to the hurricane deck, where she saw a boat was being launched, in which she took a place. Some men were also in it and the man in charge bade them get out, but Mrs. Stilson did this instead and helped to push the boat off. Turning her head for a moment to avoid the blinding smoke, when she turned it back the boat was gone and she was alone. But she did not give up her courage yet. She caught a rope and swung herself into the water, going completely under. When she rose to the surface she found herself near a boat, into which she asked to be taken. Some of the men said it was already too full, but one man among them was brave enough to risk the danger of swamping and insisted upon her being helped on board. This no doubt saved her life, but her generous preserver's name has remained unknown. She was so chilled and exhausted by this time, having been in the water probably for an hour and a half, that she herself began to fear she could not survive, and she asked the occupants of the boat to put their hands about her neck. She had to do this to keep any warmth in her body. There were no oars in this boat and the men in it were obliged to move it about as they best could until they were rescued and all put upon the City of New York. Mrs. Stilson was put into a berth and given brandy and blankets. Here she soon saw Mr. Horton and learned of Mr. Carpenter's safety, and with him returned home by train

from New York. She did not once lose consciousness through all those terrible hours of agony. She would not yield to despair, but with wonderful fortitude and calmness bore the double strain to which she was subjected — the severe physical shocks and consequent suffering, and the bitter anguish of resigning her lovely children to so cruel and relentless a fate. For three days she had to endure the added pain of not knowing whether the sea would ever give up to her her dead, but finally the two little bodies were found and brought to this town for burial.

Of the two men who perished little can be said. Mr. Edwin Horton lived in the water probably for quite two hours, as Mr. Carpenter saw and spoke to him twice. The last time he appeared almost exhausted and much discouraged, and doubtless did not long survive. Of Mr. Fulton's experience no single word can be said, for he was found among the dead. A sadder case than this could scarcely be imagined, for by his death a wife, with five young children, was left almost penniless to face the world alone. Many people throughout the town were very generous in rendering every possible aid to her in her sore distress, and very substantial proofs of sympathy were shown — notably by the one who at the same time mourned a similar loss.

Severe criticism was generally and freely bestowed upon the management of the steamboat company at that time, for everybody felt that the accident might and should have been avoided. Whether this be so or not can only be fully known when the world's history is read by the light of eternity, but it is certain that all who knew of or experienced the horrors of that awful night will pray with the utmost fervor that heaven will in the future avert all such fearful catastrophes, and we that our town may never again be called upon to mourn over such a sorrowful disaster.

In the month of February, 1873, thirteen women in the city of Philadelphia, received an appointment as a Women's Centennial Executive Committee. They were to coöperate with the members of the Centennial Commission, to contribute to the success of the contemplated exhibition. This number was subsequently augmented by the addition of one woman from each State and Territory. They were given authority to dispose of Centennial stock and to raise as much money as possible for the proposed object. A complete organization was not effected and the women's committee fully at work until January, 1875. In due time appeals were made to women all over the country through the medium of the public press. The matter was taken up in this town, a committee was appointed, and the following appeal written and published in the *Chronicle:* —

To the Ladies of Attleboro:

An appeal comes to you from the Ladies Centennial Committee, asking your co-operation in carrying out the plans of the International Exposition to be held at Philadelphia, in 1876. The objects of the Exhibition are to commemorate the birth of the nation, to show the Industrial, Literary, and Scientific development of a hundred years, and to keep fresh in the hearts and homes of our people, the memories of Revolutionary men and measures. Shall we, who are

reaping the benefits of all those self-sacrifices, fail to do our part in commemorating them? The ladies are to have a portion of the Exhibition building assigned them to be under their special supervision. A Woman's Auxiliary Committee has been organized, and similar organizations are recommended in every town and city in the Union to aid in carrying out this plan. A large proportion of the States have responded to the call. Will you, ladies of Attleboro, have a share in this grand undertaking? It has been proposed that a meeting be called at some central point, at an early day, to organize and adopt such plans and measures as shall be deemed most advisable to accomplish the desired end. Shall we not, one and all, be interested and come to the meeting prepared to do what we can and thereby show to our children and the generations who are to come after us, our appreciation of the noble deeds of the women as well as the men who figured so extensively in the days of the Revolution.

Mrs. John Daggett,
Chairman of Committee.

At a meeting of this committee, Mrs. L. B. Sweet was elected treasurer, and it was decided that a portfolio should be made up for the exhibition, consisting of a large number of pictures, it was thought from thirty to fifty, such as photographs of buildings, illustrations of the gas and water works, etc., together with a short sketch of the town's history. To raise the necessary funds it was decided to have a tea-party, which should include the triple attractions of good food, good music, and good speeches, to say nothing of good company. On this occasion there were a number of interesting old relics on exhibition, among them an earthen plate brought over in the Mayflower. There were several ancient books, one entitled Divine Fancies, and published in 1660; a Tune Book, dated 1721, and a copy of Bulkley's Sermons, printed in 1646, and bearing on its cover the quotation, "The wicked borroweth & returneth not," conclusive evidence that a certain familiar custom of our own time was almost coexistent with books themselves, and has been transmitted to us through the ages with perfect exactitude. There were also to be seen several pieces of Continental scrip, some homespun garments and homemade kerchiefs, the deed of a slave who was sold in Freetown in 1732, a copy of the Thanksgiving proclamation for 1800 by Governor Strong, and a velvet dress coat worn by one of the speakers of the evening at the advanced age of three years.

The toasts were prepared by Mrs. L. B. Sweet, and Dr. G. B. Fittz was the toastmaster.

The first was "*The Day we Celebrate; the Landing of the Pilgrims, Dec. 22, 1620.*" Hon. John Daggett responded, giving a brief account of the Pilgrims from the time they left the Old England, until they landed in the New, and claiming a special interest in Forefathers Day for this town, because it was once a corner of Plymouth Colony, and among its citizens are descendants of the voyagers on the Mayflower. His closing sentiment was: "The Pilgrims of Plymouth, and their descendants, — may we always abide in their principles, and never cease to honor their memory."

This was followed by the singing of "The Pilgrims" by a choir.

"*Our Public Schools; the principles that founded and sustained them are the true foundations of civil liberty.*" was responded to by Mr. S. P. Lathrop, who said there need not be given a history of public schools, to prove that upon them depended the safety of our republican institutions, because that is the general belief of the present day, only "sectarian bigots" believing otherwise. He further said, — "We are thankful today that our fathers early laid the

foundations of our public schools," and he closed his speech with a fitting sentiment in regard to our duty in maintaining them.

"Old Hundred" was then sung.

The third toast was, — "*The Mothers of our Land; their heroism, prudence, and other graces nerved the hearts and upheld the hands of our fathers in the times which tried men's souls. May their daughters emulate their example.*" Rev. J. C. Gowan gave the response to this with a high tribute to the women of the Revolution, and to all true mothers, and their mighty influence, and expressed his belief that the women of today are as patriotic as those of old. His closing sentiment was: "The great want of America, — mothers."

To the toast: "*Our Manufacturing and Commercial Interests,*" Mr. Homer M. Daggett was called upon to respond. He spoke of the growth of manufactures in this town, saying that the first mill established in 1790, "ran three cards and seventy spindles," and that the largest mills at that period had no more than fifty looms; — and in contrast stated that a factory must now contain over a thousand looms to be anything accounted of. He closed his remarks by saying: "Attleboro, as the outgrowth of her manufactories, shows more fine dwellings than any other similar town in New England."

The last toast was: "*The Future of Our Country,*" responded to by Rev. Samuel Bell, who in the course of his remarks spoke of the fact that in Greece the downfall of Republican life occurred when there was a departure from the Doric style of architecture, and of his fears from signs of a similar nature seen in this land, — the tendency to depart from severe simple Republicanism — that "in another century this Republic would be lost, unless saved by the great vitality of national life evidently existing." The united singing of "America," ended this very pleasant social evening.

Another entertainment consisting of music and tableaux was given by the ladies. The Declaration of Independence was on that occasion read by a young lady of the East village, and it seemed a little ironical that one of English parentage should have been selected to render that part of the program, though she acquitted herself in the proper, patriotic manner. These entertainments were both financially successful, and some fifty or sixty dollars were raised, which were used in the purchase of stock. The Centennial Board of Finance sold shares at ten dollars each, which were represented by handsome certificates. Probably five or six were bought with the money raised here, and these were presented to as many of the schools, which each appropriately framed its own.

Beyond the temporary awakening of special patriotic feelings, and the social good times which ensued, little was done with regard to the Centennial. The proposed portfolio of views and historical sketches was never prepared, and no action was taken by the citizens beyond a previously recorded vote in town meeting. For some reason the business men declined to show their manufactures, and the great jewelry interest of our town had unhappily no representation in that remarkable and interesting exhibition. This was a matter greatly to be regretted, as its magnitude made it well worthy a prominent place in the manufactures of the country, and a proper display of these goods in their variety of style and finish would have made an attractive exhibit and been a credit to the town.

In the month of February, 1886, the most widespread and disastrous flood ever known there occurred in various parts of New England. It will doubtless long be known as the "Great Freshet." It is certain that in several

instances the "oldest inhabitant" was known to acknowledge he had never seen its like, and in our town and vicinity so much water had never been visible before. The previous condition of things was entirely favorable to the results effected, for the ground was covered with a considerable body of snow and ice so compactly frozen that no single drop of water could penetrate it and reach the soil beneath, but everything must collect and remain upon the surface. A heavy rain set in, which continued uninterruptedly for thirty-six hours and was accompanied by a great and continually increasing rise in temperature. This at last broke up and partially dissolved the thick beddings of ice and snow, and, these contributing themselves to the descending floods from above, a great deluge was the natural consequence. Our town suffered severely, and for a number of hours the inhabitants were in anxious suspense lest the disaster should prove overwhelming. The territory adjacent to the Ten Mile River was of course subjected to the greatest danger, though every stream became a powerful river, and every tiniest brooklet an impetuous torrent, each adding its greater or lesser mite to augment the sum total of damage.

Plainville from being at the head of Ten Mile River naturally suffered the least from its rise, but even there many of the streets were gullied, and many houses and other buildings inundated so that business was generally suspended.

The storm was so severe during the day of Friday, February 12, that a number of cellars in North Attleborough which had never before suffered in that way were inundated, and just at nightfall "the rain took a fresh start, and rained for six hours, as few ever saw it rain." Notwithstanding this and the fact that people heard various bulky articles in their cellars tumbling about in a vigorous manner all through the night, the inhabitants of that village were unprepared for the sights which greeted their eyes on Saturday morning. The dam at Whiting's Pond had given way during the night at one side, and the remainder was threatening to follow at any moment. "Below it the inundation extended in a broad lake, reaching completely round the pumping station on one side and as far as West street on the other. At West street a small river was flowing in, fed from the meadow near Circular street, which was, in turn, supplied by a torrent which fell with a roar across Circular street. At the corner of Broad and West streets the water was over the tops of a man's rubber boots. The water swept down stream, crossing Park street at School street so deep that the water rose to the hubs of wheels. One man in the vicinity secured his floating woodshed with ropes, and several families were advised to move out. At Fisher street the stream went directly across the road, and swept up and into the lock-up." At that time Blaneyville was under water, "the loss and discomfort something dreadful," and the limits of the "Company's pond" reached on the west to the back doors of houses on East Street and into Mr. Stanley's shop

on Orne Street, while on the east side the water flowed quite up to Mrs. E. I. Richards' stable and far into the confines of the swamp. It entirely surrounded the factories here, reaching also Mr. Bonnett's shop, and over the Elm Street bridge it was two feet deep.

The greatest damage was at the railroad crossing near Whitney's shop. For a hundred feet the sleepers were undermined. "At daybreak a huge pile of cord wood, lumber and driftwood of various kinds was piled up against the track," but after some time it was broken up and went floating off down the stream. The neighboring shops were all flooded, Whitney's the worst of all, and the only shops in the village that could run were H. F. Barrows' and F. S. Draper's. Chestnut Street was so gullied as to be "almost impassable," and all along Washington Street the damage and loss were very great. R. Knapp & Co.'s basement was filled with water "flush with the street." In Annawan Block the water reached up to the floor and ran out under the door sills. The bank building had more than four feet of water in its cellar, and at the Wamsutta House it reached the furnace fires, but did not quite extinguish them. In all these places and many more the damage was considerable, but Barden Brothers suffered "more severely than any of the storekeepers in North Attleborough." The cellar of their building having always been very dry, they stored many of their supplies of goods there, and at this time these were worth some $3,000 or $4,000. The water invaded these premises to the depth of three or four feet, and engines were set to work to pump it out with some degree of success. In the Universalist church and parsonage cellars the water was several feet deep, and fires went out, as was the case in the adjoining residence of Mrs. Simeon Bowen. "Many of the houses along Washington street suffered, but chiefly near the Baptist church and below the depot, as indicated by the course of the stream." In one block on the corner of East and Elm streets the basement tenants were turned out about midnight on Friday night "by a stream as large as a man's body, entering from the rear" of the building, and in some places people were kept busy all night fighting the water and trying to prevent it from entering their cellars in unmanageable quantities. Only a few of the occurrences which took place have been cited, but what has been said is perhaps sufficient to show something of the power developed and maintained by the flood here.

The Falls was considered "the keystone of the situation," and, had the dam there given way, the destruction ensuing would have been something fearful. As it was, the greatest suffering was caused here. Some time on Friday the officers of the braid mill were requested by telephone "to let the water go, as it was backing up at the Company's shop." At noon the water at the Falls "was going over the capsils, and then all the flash boards were taken up." There was no rise at nightfall, but anticipating that there might be trouble Mr. Daggett left several men on the watch. At one o'clock the

pond began to rise; at half-past one its gain was six inches and a gain averaging four inches an hour continued until five o'clock in the morning, when the highest point was reached and when the water was rushing over the dam in enormous quantities. It was three feet higher than the capsills, and "everything below the dam was flooded." The blacksmith's shop was inundated, and everything movable floated aimlessly around. The great absorbing question was, "Will the dam stand the pressure?" and everybody anxiously feared its strength would wholly fail, especially as a large place was undermined at the south side. Happily it was sufficiently strong to endure the crucial test of those vast masses of relentless, onsetting waters, and the town was spared the more awful devastation that must have followed upon its downfall. Stanley Brothers and W. D. Fisher & Co. removed the stock and tools from their shops, expecting to see the building swept bodily down stream, and their expectation was very nearly a realization. "The floor settled six inches, the bridge was badly wrecked, and the old carpenter's shop was undermined." The tenants in many houses in the vicinity received notice to quit their premises, and some confusion resulted, but it is said that all acquitted themselves excellently well and accepted the dangerous situation with great courage. The scene here was full of grandeur, of sublime, fearful beauty, but overwhelming to the beholder with the manifestation of infinite power.

The bridge at the Robinsonville dam was totally wrecked and the water was on a level with the railroad and washing over the road. There was a large washout at that point and the railroad bridge was rendered unsafe. Commonwealth Avenue had two and a half feet of water on it and all the streets at and near the Falls in the course of the river were more or less washed. Elm Street was impassable from J. F. Sturdy's residence to the railroad, it being "packed with barrels, lumber and rubbish," which had floated down there. The basement of N. B. Follett & Co.'s store had some three feet of water in it. The company were somewhat prepared for the emergency and so suffered small loss comparatively, but in many houses the loss was considerable. The bridge on Clifton Street was swept away "and assumed an upright position about 100 feet down stream," and Commonwealth Avenue had a bad washout just west of the Agricultural Association grounds.

At the Farmers the damage was also considerable. A part of the bank at the dam there gave way, and for a time, it is said, "the scene beggared all description." The footbridge to the foundry was washed away and a corner of the old building itself. The small stone bridge near the residence of H. M. Daggett fell in on one side, and the road there was badly gullied. The tiny brook between his house and that of Sumner E. Capron, which that bridge crosses, swelled to a torrent of no mean size and rose to the height of Mr. Capron's garden fence; and people wishing to get from one side of the stream to the other had to cross on the top of the fence, which afforded but a preca-

rious foothold in the rolling, tumbling waters. Mr. H. N. Daggett early sent word to the Farmers of the imminent danger at the Falls and the prospect that the dam there would yield to the pressure from above, advising the residents to be prepared for that exigency. The yard and garden of his own house in that village, then occupied by the Rev. Mr. Philbrook, were flooded and the water reached the level of the barn floor. The grounds of the cottage just across the river there were filled with dirt and stones, for the swollen river rushed through the yard with great force, tearing down fences and dashing the débris it collected upon whatever opposed its onward course. The residents in this house, Mrs. Elmira Cole and her three children, were removed early on Saturday morning by one of the neighbors, H. S. Babcock. Even at that time the water had risen to the height of the switch handle on the railroad. The bridge at the crossing there sank down on one side and the track was washed away for a hundred feet or more, while the bridge at Deantown at the head of the millpond there was a complete wreck.

The condition of affairs at Mechanics a little lower down the river caused great anxiety during the entire day Saturday, for upon the security of the dam at that place depended, it was thought, the safety of the buildings at the County Street bridge still further down. All the morning there was a steady rising of the water in the Mechanics pond and every moment was full of fearful apprehensions for its endurance. The dam there is some sixty feet long and it kept intact until midday, when quite a section was washed away and the pent up floods, now let loose, rushed on in ungovernable fury, carrying everything that lay in their path — small buildings, the foundations of a tenement-house, and huge masses of ice cakes, whose cracking and tearing as they plunged madly forward augmented the horrors of the scene. Enough of the dam held to prevent the entire body of water from going at once, but enough poured out to noticeably increase the height of the waters in the meadows below in a very short time and to lower the depth of the pond eighteen inches almost immediately. Reaching the bridge over the road from the East village, the torrent seized and lifted it up bodily — a fragile toy in its mighty hand — and bore it away down the stream. The mill tenement-houses by the bridge had been flooded long before and deserted by the inmates, who had removed such of their furniture as they could to a place of safety.

In East Attleborough the residents were threatened with a threefold danger. Not only was a wide-spread destruction from the freshet itself impending, but incalculable loss from fire should any break out, and an entire famine of water in the waterworks. Early in the evening of Friday the fires at the pumping station were extinguished by the spreading waters of the river, and until the Monday morning following there was no way of obtaining a new supply, the pump being the only dependence for filling the tank. The registrar issued printed notices and sent out special messengers through the village, enjoining the people to practise the utmost possible economy in their use of water.

Fortunately the supply previously stored was sufficient to last until pumping could be again resumed, though in many buildings the force had failed to carry to the second stories. As early as Thursday the river here had swollen from the rain to unusual proportions and by Friday noon the water had made its determined way into the boiler-room of the pumping station. At six o'clock in the afternoon it was eighteen inches deep there, and an hour later twenty-three inches deep, and soon after the engine fires went out. This rise continued all night and on Saturday morning County Street for some distance "was fordable only in long boots," while during the night Mr. Wales had been obliged to move his horse and various things from his stable.

At an early hour it was announced that there could be no railroad traffic and consequently no mails. Business generally was suspended and great crowds, among which were many women, gathered themselves together to watch the floods, all fascinated by the sight and yet terrified at the fury of the maddened waters. A bystander at this place says: "Every moment the water grew deeper and increased in force. By ten o'clock it was nearly impossible for a person to stand upright in the stream which, separated by Bushee's shop, formed two violent currents, one of which rushed under the bridge, and the other poured between this shop and Wales' blacksmith's shop. Carboys were tossed about, and a number belonging to A. Bushee & Co. and Horton, Angell & Co. went down the stream. W. D. Wilmarth & Co. also lost their carboys. The stream was now 200 to 300 feet wide and gaining in violence. It tore off the fence on the Wilmarth side and poured impetuously between the coffin-trimming factory and the old Advocate office. At the former, a breakwater was hastily built near the bridge, banked with coal, which diverted a great deal of the water. Every moment the torrent between the buildings grew fiercer, and it seemed impossible that the latter could stand the pressure. The dip house belonging to Messrs. A. Bushee & Co. finally left its foundation, and sailing along, was caught by the shop. By noon the water was up to the bridge and soon was over it. The water rose to five feet two inches in the boiler room, which was four and a half feet higher than ever before. The scene after noon was very exciting. All business was suspended and every one who could got a place to view the still swelling water. A rope had been stretched across the street to keep people off the bridge, which it seemed must inevitably be swept away. The little foot bridge in Hayward's meadow had long before come down, and was under the bridge. A little after one o'clock Mechanics bridge rose from its foundation, and sailed majestically down stream. It was necessary to prevent it from striking the other bridge and boats put out for it. Mr. Edward Weaver was the first man on it, and he, Wallace Collom, and W. H. Blaney, with lines secured it to a convenient tree." This danger avoided, a new one arose, that from the immense masses of floating ice; and the fire alarm was sounded and the firemen put on duty to ward off these great blocks from bridge and buildings and

keep them in midstream, and the men proved themselves as well adapted for and as zealous in this work as in their more legitimate one. For two hours the fight was a desperate one, as the waters continued to mount higher and higher and many of the ice cakes proved almost unmanageable. The iron railing of the bridge was broken off, great lumps of ice were piled up in the road, sidewalks and roadbed were torn up, and tons of sand and gravel thrown up upon the higher land; and the meadows to the south were flooded as far as could be seen. Fears were at one time entertained for the safety of Wilmarth's shop, but its foundations proved solid enough to withstand the long-sustained shock. About two o'clock the waters reached their greatest height and not long after began slowly but surlily and with great reluctance to subside. Sunday morning they had greatly abated but there was still a deep, though narrow stream between the two shops, and the course of the mighty torrent of the day before was marked by a wide line of devastation. The damage was not in reality very serious at this point and in a few days the shops were running smoothly and the necessary repairs to street and bridge had been made; but if the river-bed was on a level with the central portion of the village instead of through low-lying meadows, it is impossible to calculate what the results would have been.

The Wolfenden Dye Works, though situated very near the river, by singular good fortune escaped serious injury, though at three different times during the increase of the freshet articles were moved to a safe distance. Everything movable was upset, but the actual loss was small. The dam at Dodgeville had been considered an unusually strong one and great reliance was placed upon it all through this critical time, and not vainly, for it stood the test as a whole, though it sustained considerable damage. A new wall, then but recently built between the dam and the waste-house, was however entirely washed away, and opposite that spot about twelve feet of banking also, the water forcing itself under the roadway. Some preparations had been made here for a rise of water, but of course wholly out of proportion to that which actually occurred. The lower floor and boiler-room of the mill were filled with the unwelcome element, the machinery was a good deal injured, and about two hundred and fifty tons of coal lost. It is said that over a thousand persons visited this place during Saturday.

The bridge on the road which runs from a point between Dodgeville and Hebronville to the town farm was badly washed out and damaged, and another bridge, lifted from its foundations somewhere above, floated down and sympathetically joined this wreck. The dam at Hebronville, which is a fine piece of work, held its position firmly, though it was hard pressed, but the water rose there to an immense height and pursued its rapid course almost unchallenged through the first floor of the mill. A large piece was torn away from the corner of the brick blacksmith's shop, and of the more than a thousand bales of cotton in the cotton-house about half were soaked through. Nearly three hundred tons of coal were lost here.

At Orr's mill near the "City" there was a scene of wild confusion when the waters were assuaged. The dam there was a solidly built granite wall, and it had wide and deep abutments, which had been strengthened but a few years previous. About three o'clock on Saturday afternoon the north side yielded to the enormous weight of the collected torrents above, and these rushed tumultuously onward, driving everything before them in their resistless course. Four large elm trees standing near the dam were torn up by the roots and swept away to a distance of six or seven hundred feet; great rocks and stones weighing tons were tossed about like pebbles, and gravel and débris were whirled hither and thither like feathers dancing in a summer's breeze. For acres around, the ground was strewn with a heterogeneous mass of rubbish. When the dam broke, the current seized upon a new way for itself nearer the road, making a powerful stream between the bleachery and ice-house, which excavated a chasm of several feet in depth. A shed which adjoined the ice-house was swept away, and the basement of the bleachery filled with water. The bridges on this river (Seven Mile) above and below this point were destroyed, and the stream near the residence of Elisha G. May formed an entirely new channel for itself, while the after scene in all directions was fearful. The street running through South Attleborough was filled with water, a lake was formed in front of the schoolhouse, and the cellars on both sides of the way were flooded. One end of the bridge fell in, but when the water had subsided it was found it could still be used, and the damage altogether in this village was not severe.

At Adamsdale, on the contrary, it was very great. The bridge crossing the old road above the mill was carried away, and below the mill the once narrow stream swelled to a river nearly a hundred feet wide. Here another bridge was carried away and a great excavation from sixty to eighty feet in width was dug out in the south bank, and as far as the eye could reach the meadows along the river course were covered with débris of every description. The mill basement was inundated, the floor forced up in places, the oil tanks tipped over; in fact there was a general wreckage of everything. A barn standing near by was uplifted; one half of it containing hay, etc., was left a few rods off, and the other half deposited fully half a mile away. The inhabitants were kept up all of Friday night in a state of intense anxiety. An eyewitness here said: "Every moment the angry stream writhed with greater violence, every moment the peril increased. At midnight the houses were deserted, and the little band of villagers hastily sought the high land, expecting their little homes to be carried away, and that the mill where they labored, would be in ruins. These last calamities are happily averted, but about half-past five Saturday morning, the massive granite dam, which seemed impregnable, gave way with a crash, and the vast body of water rushed down tumultuously, overrunning the banks, dashing through the streets, tossing great cakes of ice like playthings, and forming a scene which

was indescribable, and the full terror of which was kindly hid by the early darkness from the alarmed villagers. Morning showed the desolation, the rushing torrent, the ruined dam, and the torn up streets. Large cakes of ice were lying around, and some of great size were leaning against the corner of A. B. Carpenter's cottage, where they evidently saved the house, for the water had rushed around it with a force which would have driven it away, in all probability, had the ice not saved it."

The damage to the town's property in the way of highways and bridges was very considerable and was often found to be most severe where least expected. In a number of instances old bridges which had not been considered altogether safe to drive over remained intact, while newer ones were completely destroyed, the examination of the authorities into the condition of things after the storm of waters had spent itself showing that, if the doctrine of the survival of the fittest can be connected with inanimate matters, it had in various cases at this time been most peculiarly misapplied. Brooks too small to be indicated on the maps of the town took this opportunity to force themselves into prominent notice and, broadened and deepened to respectable rivers, rendered the highways in their courses quite impassable. On Broad Street, near Whiting's factory, the bridge remained firm in spite of the adjacent severe washout, and that on Fisher Street also; but the roadbed east of the latter was cut down to the rocks. Half of the wooden bridge on Chestnut Street was taken away, and the entire street had the appearance of consistent and persistent neglect. At Deantown the road bridge kept its entirety, though there was a bad washout near it. This was the more remarkable because the railroad bridge by the pond above was wholly destroyed. "The famous selectmen's bridge at Hebronville stood through it all, and never turned a hair," someone remarked, while the new stone bridges at Oldtown, which were constructed at a cost of $1,400, were entirely carried away, "with the exception of a narrow roadway on the extreme southern edge." Hunt's bridge bore the continuous and tremendous pressure from the large ponds above it most nobly. This bridge is a stone arch "24 feet span, 18 feet in the clear," and the abutments are filled in with rock for a distance of fourteen feet back from the edges. It was built by Jesse Carpenter, and that is equivalent to saying it is of thorough and substantial construction all through, equally sound in every part. The stone-arched bridge near Mr. Sweetland's house on the Holmes neighborhood road gave way, and all passage on the road was barred. Luckily, just before it fell, the milkmen returning from North Attleborough had crossed on their homeward journey. There were also other and numerous washouts in various parts of the town, some cellars on Pleasant Street were flooded, and in Bearswamp and vicinity the water was very abundant, but the more important damages have been mentioned. Soon after the freshet the estimated loss was placed at from $25,000 to $50,000. Including all injuries to per-

sonal property and merchandise, and the delays caused to business men, etc., the latter figure may have been nearly reached, though no positive statement can be made; the town loss as estimated by one of the then selectmen was about $14,000.

There were of course many amusing incidents, and many accidents occurred, but fortunately in this town no fatalities. Mr. William Henshaw, while leading his horse across a washout, fell and injured his hip, but not seriously. Mr. G. A. Dean and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sweet, on their way home from New York, found themselves "stormbound" with many other persons at New London, Conn. A party of thirty, in which they were included, chartered a tug — by an arrangement highly favorable to the owner financially — and came to Pawtucket, where, in order to land, the gentlemen had to wade ashore and assist the ladies. From there our townspeople finally reached home in a coach, only after "a long and roundabout journey." At County Street some man attempted to drive through the waters while they were subsiding. For a time all went well, but suddenly the horse went down, leaving only his ears visible. It was thought he must be dead, but aid was rendered as promptly as possible, and the beast developed such lively and vigorous mulish qualities that all doubts as to his animate condition speedily vanished. At this place considerable enterprise was developed in a manner that proved convenient to numbers of people. When the street became quite impassable as a street, Wallace Collom got a boat, and all during Saturday ferried persons across the river, many making the little voyage from curiosity, and others as the only means of reaching their homes on the farther side. Mr. J. M. Bates rendered most valuable service to East Attleborough by pumping water from the wells at his shops into the mains, thus materially supplementing the supply in the tower tank. O. W. Hawkins & Co. displayed commendable enterprise in their line. Mr. Hawkins and a companion drove to Providence on Saturday, to obtain their supply of the *Bulletin*. It was a perilous drive, but they managed to overcome the difficulties and avoid the dangers, and performed the feat in safety, having the welcome newspapers in town in the early evening of that day.

Previous to the occurrence of the freshet there had been continued and somewhat animated discussion by the citizens of East Attleborough as to the advisability and feasibility of taking water from North Attleborough, and many had been positive that such a thing was quite impossible. The *Chronicle* of February 16, 1886, says: "But such have changed their minds within the last twenty-four hours. North Attleborough has proved its superiority to the home product by completely silencing the batteries of the latter. Powerless before North Attleborough's supply, the boilers of the Attleboro' pumping station ceased to act. Like Joseph's sheaf, the North water supply compelled obeisance to itself." On the other hand it was generally acknowledged that had there been proper sewerage in the North village the damage

from the flood would have been materially lessened, and the *Advocate* of a little later date informed its readers that so universally was this want realized that in North Attleborough even the infants were "crying for a sewer." For several days at this time the town was cut off from communication with the outside world as regarded mails. The Rehoboth carrier managed to get his bag to the East village on Saturday afternoon, and this was the only out of town mail — and of course a small and unimportant one — between Friday and Monday night. The mail and express packages from North Attleborough reached Attleborough some time on Saturday, but the former was returned, and the latter had to await the opening of rail traffic. A mail was sent to Boston and one to Providence on Monday, the fifteenth, at noon, and one received from the former place on the evening of the same day, which included a New York mail, while communication with the "North" was had by carriage. On Monday evening the midnight train on the Branch Road went through, arriving at the North Attleborough station at 12.40 A.M. This was a very hazardous trip, and at the time the water at the Farmers was still so high that it flowed into the door of the baggage car. On the following day a gravel train, while attending to repairs, ran into a soft place in the road and only got back to a firm place with a good deal of difficulty. Regular travel on this road was resumed on Thursday, the eighteenth. The Taunton Branch track was badly damaged, and as work on the main line of the Old Colony Road had to be done first the repairs there were delayed, and the passengers from "Taunton way" for this town and beyond had to travel by the old route through Mansfield. Very serious results followed the freshet on the Boston & Providence Road, but sufficient repairs were speedily made to enable some traffic to be resumed, and trains commenced running on the seventeenth, Wednesday. The first through train for New York left Boston on the morning of that day, but it was delayed for six hours in Providence on account of a "break in the Stonington line." The first train from Boston to Providence left the former place at 3.50 P.M. of the same day and passed through this town at 4.43. A few days later trains were running regularly.

Throughout this entire vicinity and indeed in all portions of the State the freshet was more or less felt, but with the greatest severity in the eastern parts, where in some places it caused not only great inconvenience but actual suffering. Strange to say, the coming of a freshet was foretold in a curious manner, and the visible signs of the prophecy commented upon. Some weeks previous Mr. A. A. Folsom, superintendent of the Boston & Providence Railroad, called the attention of several gentlemen going over the road upon one occasion to a large number of hillocks of earth rising from all parts of the Neponset marshes. These little elevations were the work of muskrats and were thrown up to a height of several feet. When these reach an unusual height, it is said to betoken an expectation on the part of

these little animals of high water over their marshy homes. Mr. Folsom observed that he had never seen these mounds so high before and added: "We will have an opportunity of testing the truth of the old aphorism regarding the foresight of the muskrat. If there is very high water the coming spring, the coincidence will be something remarkable." What was foretold by these wise little prophets of instinct was fulfilled to the letter, but people when forewarned are by no means always like them forearmed, even to the best of their ability. In this case, however, no one could have been adequately prepared, because the freshet was wholly unprecedented in its magnitude; in deed and truth the waters "were increased greatly" and "prevailed exceedingly upon the earth." Now that matters are long since restored to their wonted order, those who saw this furious onslaught of the elements and the wide trails of devastation their ruthless stormy passing left behind can look back upon the experiences of those days as something to be highly prized. To witness the manifestation of such exalted, mighty power, to behold scenes of such majestic, superhuman grandeur is indeed an experience whose memories are great and abiding; but those who saw the most and felt the deepest, in this time when it seemed as if once more "the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven opened," will ever welcome the bright appearing of the "bow in the cloud" and with the most fervent gratitude remember the promise of the Lord to Noah of old: "Neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth."

A good many years ago a marked improvement in building began to be manifest, but for a score of years probably this was confined almost entirely to private residences. The first substantial and notable improvement made in buildings for public and business purposes was the erection in 1876 of a handsome three-story brick block on the corner of Park Street and Railroad Avenue in East Attleborough by Mr. James H. Sturdy. Mr. Sturdy showed both enterprise and public spirit in no small degree in thus early making so large an outlay for such purposes. He was subjected to some considerable criticism for what was termed his lack of wisdom, for many people were of the opinion that such a building was obviously long in advance of the needs of the time. It was speedily proved, however, that his foresight and judgment were entirely correct, for Sturdy Block became at once useful to the community and is an ornament to the village. It afforded suitable accommodations for the First National Bank, Postoffice, Town Clerk's Office, Masonic Fraternity, various stores, and some private offices. One of the most appreciable features of this enterprise, one for which the owner deserves the thanks of the entire community, was the appropriate fitting up of the space to be occupied by the postoffice. Lock boxes and other modern improvements were introduced at Mr. Sturdy's expense, and for the first time a proper place for the reception and distribution of mails was provided.

there having never before been a place so suitable in town or one adequate to the demands in the larger sections.

The example so promptly and well set by Mr. Sturdy has been followed in frequently recurring instances, and in both of the larger villages of the town there are many solid and handsome structures for business uses. Conspicuous among these are Bates Opera House, Horton Block, and Pierce Block in East Attleborough; and all the buildings in their vicinity which are occupied as stores are markedly superior in every way to those of the same kind of twenty years ago, whether they are of recent construction or old buildings remodeled. Among the most conspicuous in North Attleborough is Wamsutta Block, which, with its commodious theatre adjoining the hotel, covers a large space and presents a fine appearance, while the Bank Building, Kendall Block, Codding Block, Odd Fellows Building, and many others give to their vicinity on Washington Street quite the look of a city thoroughfare. Indeed this entire street, which runs a straight, wide way through the centre of the village from the Baptist Church to a considerable distance on the road to Oldtown, presents a striking appearance, one calculated to produce a very favorable impression upon a stranger. It is a street of which any enterprising manufacturing village would have reason to be proud.

The first really elegant private residences in town were those built, now a long time ago, by Messrs. E. I. and Josiah Richards. The latter is more conspicuous from its elevated situation, and the attractions of its extensive lawns have been enhanced in recent years by the pretty cottage where Mr. Richards' son resides. The former has large and well-kept grounds, by which the river runs. It looks a handsome, luxurious home, and the style of the house adds a dignity which enhances the beauty of the whole place. The opposite houses, those of Mr. Codding and the late Dr. Foster, impress the passer-by with the feeling that their owners have prospered well in the world, and that within their walls there reigns that ample comfort which is but another name for luxury. The next elegant residence to be built was that of Mr. W. D. Whiting at the other end of the North village. This was a very costly house, probably the most so in town, and is very handsome, though its style and that of those before mentioned have been superseded by the "Queen Anne" in all its varied modifications. Not far away stands the "round house" built by Mr. Tifft. This could never have praise for its beauty, but it has had fame from its oddity. A number of the older residences along Washington Street have been modernized, notably that of the late Stephen Richardson, and several handsome new ones erected within a few years, among these that of Mr. Theron Smith and Mr. H. F. Barrows, whose commodious grounds have been brought to their present state of attraction only by great labor and expense. On the side streets running west from Washington Street, the old huckleberry pasture land of sixty years ago, are scores of pretty homes, and many of the houses, built as modern fashion

dictates, are very charming. Among these and in other situations are those of Dr. Foster, Dr. Burden, O. M. Draper, Edward Price, Arthur Codding, E. I. Franklin, T. G. Frothingham, Clarence Fisher, Edwin Sturtevant, Charles P. Young, E. L. Hixon, Hervey Richards, and many others.

At the Falls village also are a number of very pretty homes, those of several members of the Freeman family and the Stanley brothers being especially worthy of mention. Wherever the name of Sturdy is connected with a place as its owner, there one is sure to find what is comfortable and attractive, as in this part of the town in the case of J. F. Sturdy and his family. A large amount of territory is now included in the Falls since the adjacent village became a part of it, and the houses are scattered far and wide. Here and there some of the finer old houses have been allowed to remain in their original state unchanged. This is the case with the squarely proportioned commodious residence of the late Willard Robinson. It was always peculiar to itself with its quaint panel-like style of painting of several shades or colors, but it has always had that air of comfort and solidity about it which makes one feel that its owner must be what he was, a man of dignified, high-toned respectability. The two houses which on the whole have been more successfully modernized than any others in town are in this vicinity. One is the residence of R. F. Simmons at what was formerly called only Robinsonville and is the "old Robinson house" of a certain branch of that family. The alterations were made under the last owner of the name, Mr. Frank Robinson, and so artistically that they are improvements, not disfigurements, and give the house the twofold attraction of what is old and what is new. The too much plainness of the old style is relieved and the too much ornateness of the new is toned down in a happy manner, and the result is a charming country house. The other is the residence of H. N. Daggett at the Falls village proper. It has greatly the advantage in point of situation, as it is on elevated ground near the little eminence known as "Peck's mountain." The broad, sloping lawn in front is very inviting in its appearance and is properly allowed to be almost entirely plain turf, having only a few shrubs near the house and a few trees at the foot near the street. Great taste has been displayed in the changes and additions made to the building itself, for it is still wholly an old-fashioned house, and the noble elm that has stood there these scores of years yet bends approvingly over it, by no means the smallest attraction of the place. Inside it is still of "ye olden time," with its low ceilings, high windows, and narrow passageways; but the former discomforts have been banished and their places occupied with the luxuries of these latter days.

In East Attleborough the finer houses are not so elegant and striking as some of those at the North village, but there are many which are equally comfortable and attractive-looking, and the entire village has more uniformity in this direction. The late Charles E. Hayward was among the first of his

generation to erect a then "new style" of house, and though the fashion has changed, the place retains the substantial aspect which cannot be out of date, and around it for that owner's sake many pleasant memories will always cluster. The nearest neighbor, built by Mr. Samuel Carpenter, was in its early days one of the finest houses in the village, and its grounds were an excellent example of a fashion then prevalent of filling almost every foot of space with close-set trees and large flowering shrubs, almost hiding the house itself from the view of passers-by. In its present owner's hands, Mr. Gardner Hodges, it has been much altered and improved, according to the present taste, but all traces of the former aspect have not by any means been removed, and those who knew it as it was formerly can still recognize the "Uncle Sam" Carpenter place. One sees with pleasure the well-appointed, well-kept place of Mr. J. M. Bates near by, who has made much of the material he had in house and grounds both. Just above, on North Main Street, is the place of Mr. Watson, one of the best appointed in the village. Peck Street has several very attractive houses, particularly those of Mr. Tucker, the Messrs. Bliss, and Mr. Wexell; and that of Mr. Sweet is a model of neatness and good care. Among other pleasant places are those of Mr. Short and Mr. Newell on Bank Street, and the Horton brothers on Pleasant Street, the house of the late Gideon M. Horton being the handsomest, built in the latest style. The attractions of South Main Street have recently been greatly enhanced by the newly erected houses of Messrs. Smith, Crosby, and Cummings, which are extremely pretty and are all quite near those of the gentlemen who lead the way here — Messrs. Sturdy and Dean. County Street Hill is now almost entirely covered with dwellings, the finest in style and situation being those of Mr. Blackinton, now Mr. Bigney's, and Mr. Marsh. The latter is a charming house and commands very pretty views. One of the prettiest houses on the other side of the railroad is that of Mr. Bullock on Union Street, and the village has extended itself far east of this spot, lately nearly the extreme limit, even beyond the meadows on the Bearcroft Road, following the lead of Mr. James Sturdy, who selected here the elevated site on which he has established his home, and to whom it is due that this situation has become desirable. North Main Street changes every year, but the Peck house still retains its ample garden, and its wonted pleasant look, and its open door for the friendly calls of an extensive list of "neighbors" from all over the town and far outside its limits. The old Carpenter house just west of this has been entirely made over and after a desirable manner, but one misses the kindly, cheerful faces of its long-time occupants, and there, as in many places, has cause to regret the changes time must so often bring.

Leaving the busy, bustling North or East village, one may soon reach parts of the town which have been virtually the same for nearly half a century. By whichever road the traveler drives he will pass thrifty-looking farms with

commodious dwelling-houses and ample, well-built barns. Especially is this true of the road through the Read and Ide neighborhood, than which we think there cannot be a pleasanter of its kind perhaps in all the State, though equally pleasant may be the one beyond Oldtown to the Holmes neighborhood and thence on to North Attleborough. These drives would be a revelation to those who have heard of Attleborough only as a great manufacturing town, and a surprise to some born and brought up within its limits. From one point of view — that of marked material prosperity — there is cause for a large measure of regret in the fact that South and West Attleborough have been doomed to a state of comparative stagnation for so many years. This is especially true because the opportunity for rapid growth was formerly almost within the grasp of these sections, and harder for the people because hopes in this direction were legitimately raised, only, as it proved, to be disappointed. The first railroad line surveyed in town was through its western part, and had that line been adopted the naturally resulting benefits, which have been felt in other portions, would doubtless in large measure have accrued to these villages. Now, as for more than a generation past, so few opportunities in any line of business offer themselves to young men just starting in life that these almost everyone are forced to search elsewhere for chances of maintenance or success; and for this reason the population continues year after year to be about the same. From another point of view — that of calm, contented, simple living in the midst of the turbulence, the perplexity, and the multiplicity of requirements in nineteenth-century life — there is cause for rejoicing that any spot and any people are permitted to continue for even a score of years the same. We turn with a feeling of relief from the ever changing, hurrying present and contemplate with a real satisfaction scenes that partake of an older, slower-moving time. No lack of thrift or abundant comfort is manifest in these western villages and their surroundings, but they have about them an atmosphere of true quiet and peace, and it seems as if life were really *lived* here with tranquillity and earnestness of purpose and not confusedly and half-aimlessly *rushed* through. At the entrance to South Attleborough is the old Ingraham house, where it must have stood for nearly a hundred years, and on both sides of the "village street" are the long-familiar dwellings, the Draper house, the Barrows house, and many another. There is the tannery on the century-old site, though it now stands clothed in new garments; and a little beyond the centre rises the cheerful little chapel, quite modern but perfectly in keeping with the entire scene, blending the newer and older in a pretty picture. Over the same road one drives or walks, as beforetime turning northward, and soon the old "First Church" is seen, pointing its spire heavenward from the spot where our town forefathers first planted a house of God. Near by is the parsonage, — long may its present occupant remain there, — the schoolhouse, where one early stood, and the

queer little powder-house. A picture of quiet peace and plenty is to be found in the neatly kept homestead of Mr. May, not far from the church, and its outward appearance but faintly mirrors the tranquil happiness that reigns within. A kindly spirit of helpfulness dwells here, and though many of its fellows have vanished from the land, this is still a pattern New England country home. Not far away southward is the old Newell house. It still shows how the famous old tavern looked, for its outward appearance is not much altered, and it is still literally the Newell house, being occupied by the fifth generation of that family. Long may its stanch old timbers weather wintry blasts to come, and may there never be wanting one of the well-known name to dwell beneath its time-honored roof! All around are scattered the homes of the farmers, who, with their families Sabbath after Sabbath, gather at this historic spot, to the sound of the "meeting-house" bell, as their fathers and their fathers' fathers did before them. This whole place is full of cherished recollections and hallowed associations of "ye olden time." Long may it be ere their memory fades away, and may that day be late in its appearing when the sway of the peaceful contented past still lingering over this pretty region shall give place to the engrossing power of the restless, dissatisfied present!

As we have mentioned some of the handsome buildings in town we should not omit to mention those who have carried out the ideas of owners and architects in their construction. Bennett & French and Edmund S. Cargill are the principal builders in North Attleborough, and they have had charge of some of the finest buildings recently erected there, both public and private. In East Attleborough William H. Goff is prominent, and has built a number of the new houses and Bates Opera House. His success in carrying out the architect's plan in the latter case is alone sufficient to attest his ability. Here also Charles N. Grant has within a few years become prominent in this line. He built the residences of Mr. Marsh and Mr. J. M. Fisher in the East village and that of Mr. Mackreth at the Falls. He built the new Y. M. C. A. building on County Street and the residence of Mr. G. St. J. Sheffield, which was the home for a generation of the author of this work.

We are justly entitled to a considerable degree of pride in the position of our town by reason of the ability displayed by our business men, and we may honestly congratulate ourselves upon its outward appearance. On the whole and as a whole it has a remarkably thrifty look; there is very little shabbiness to be found, comparatively speaking, in any part of its territory, and few if any tokens of extreme poverty, and in the cases where such tokens are more or less evident examination would probably show them to be the result of shiftlessness not necessity. We may also be proud of the long list of highly gifted men to whom Attleborough may claim the honor of giving birth. Many of these her sons have gone forth to take prominent places in the literary and intellectual world, and many others, both sons and

daughters, destined to remain at home, have there quietly cultivated the talents given them, and their attainments though not always widely known are both creditable and worthy. Our newspapers have long testified to the ability of sons both by birth and adoption. The editorial columns of the older of these may safely challenge comparison with those of many a city journal of repute, and its whole tone is higher than many of these; while the younger, attempting less in this particular direction, may as safely challenge comparison as a sprightly, interesting publication, a "newsy" town newspaper. Each in its own line deserves equal credit with the other, and both are creditable to the town.

We have now in town three writers. Mrs. Lucy B. Sweet has these many years been called "our town poet." Her words come from the depths of a womanly heart and appeal to the hearts of her readers, and whether they be in prose or verse are spoken ever and with "no uncertain sound" on the side of the highest right and the best good. Many will recall the songs she sang so full of faith and cheer during the gloomy days of the Rebellion and remember that hearts were gladdened and courage was strengthened by their bright brave words. A younger woman has somewhat recently entered this same field of verse — Miss Mary A. Mathias, of West Attleborough, whose poems are especially well known to the readers of the *Chronicle*. Her talents are unquestioned and her productions have "the ring of the true metal in them." Some years since several charming story books for children and young people made their appearance, published by an unknown writer. Happily such secrets cannot long be kept and happily too in this instance the pleasant fact transpired that Miss Mary J. Capron, of our town, was their author. Miss Capron essayed writing in a line in which success is difficult of attainment, that of amusing to gain the attention and at the same time instructing children in the highest ways. Her abilities were abundantly proved by the success she met with, for these stories were attractive and instructive to little people and interesting and useful to their elders. Her pen is always occupied in the furtherance of some good work, but it is unfortunate for her numerous readers that she no longer employs it in this former direction.[1]

The fashion of disputes was set at a very early date, according to the highest authority in the first days of the infancy of the race, and none ever known to the world has been more faithfully followed. One of the most ancient of customs, it has been so well maintained that it has never fallen into disuse, never been in the least "out of date," but has come down to us through all the ages in "unalloyed purity." It can change form, feature, dress, and manner to suit every clime and every exigency, but the real spirit of controversy — that inherent element of human nature — remains through

[1] Miss Capron has since died.

all quite the same; and disputes nowadays, like one of old, are apt to make a display of considerable knowledge of both good and evil. Our town has always purposed to "keep up with the times" as far as possible, sufficiently at least not to warrant the stigma of being "out of the world" because "out of the fashion"; and enough of this spirit has been manifested here at different times to prove our people to be lineal descendants of Adam. Perhaps the most lengthy controversy with which any of our citizens have been connected since the Angle tree boundary line was finally and firmly laid is the one, half public, half private, so long going on in the east part of the town. It was on the docket for many years, not always active, frequently quite dormant, but always ready to arouse itself on the slightest provocation when nothing more important claimed the chief attention of the community. Happily it has now been brought to a final issue and in a most desirable manner.

Whereas the planting of one particular tree in the midst of a certain plot of ground caused the beginning of the world's first angry discussion recorded, which humanly speaking was fraught with such grave results to all the following races of men, in the instance of which we write, the planting of many common trees in another certain plot of ground has caused the cessation of a late and somewhat violent discussion, whose results promise to be filled with cheerful and lasting benefits to at least a small portion of one of the races of men. Here, instead of a driving forth of the inhabitants and the dying out of a beautiful garden, we look to see a pretty little park grow up, under the shade of whose trees as under their "own vine and fig tree" the dwellers of the "East Precinct" will meet in the future to amicably discuss not angrily dispute over the affairs of the community — even to boundary lines — and of the world.

The controversy to which reference is made is the one over the tract of land known as "The Attleborough Common," and which during the past ten or twelve years has been especially exciting. The parties concerned were "The Second Congregational Parish, and The Attleborough Public."

"The parish based its claim upon three things: on a gift of land from John Sweet in 1744; on an alleged purchase of land east of the John Sweet lot, in 1794; and on a bequest of land from the heirs of Dr. Abijah Everett, south of said John Sweet lot, in 1829." Attempts on the part of the parish to exclude the public from this ground caused the matter to be brought to a legal issue. As can be seen on previous pages of this history, the lands in this vicinity were purchased from the Indian owner thereof, for some inhabitants of Rehoboth, by Captain Thomas Willet and his associates, they "having been first authorized and empowered by the Court for that purpose," and in this way it came into the hands of the proprietors of the Rehoboth North Purchase. The records show how this land was divided into shares, giving the "metes and bounds" of each man's "grant," or "lay out," and these records constitute the legal title to the lands. On June 7, 1743,

exactly two months later than the date of the division in the First Parish of Attleborough, John Sweet laid out four acres and one hundred and eight rods of land. In this was comprised the present kirkyard, a part of the land over which at this point the Boston and Providence Railroad passes, "and a wedge of land that enters the west side of the common and terminates in a point two rods wide, just south of the band stand, where the present (about 1883) foot-path now crosses." Some of the paving stones that lay in front of the old church were at that time visible in the path. Mr. Sweet was most assuredly a generous man and withal a public-spirited citizen, and a year after taking it up for himself he donated some of the above-mentioned land to the parish for the uses and purposes described in the deed which follows: —

DEED

To all people to whom these presents shall come, GREETING

Know you that I, John Sweet, of Attleborough, in the County of Bristol, within his Majestie's province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, yeoman, for in consideration of the love and good will and respect which I have and do bear towards the inhabitants of the Second Precinct in Attleboro and divers good causes and considerations in thereunto moving, have given, granted, alienes, confirmed and conveyed, and by these presents do freely, fully and absolutely give, grant, alien, convey and confirm unto said inhabitants their Heirs and assignees, one acre of land whereon the meeting-house now stands, to be improved for that use so long as said precinct shall keep a meeting-house for the public worship of God upon said lot and no longer. And if the said precinct shall choose to move the meeting-house to any other place in said precinct, that then the said land to return to the said John Sweet, his heirs and assignees forever. Said land lying on Bungay plain adjoining to the land belonging to the heirs of John Peck and bounded as follows:

The first corner being a stake and stones for a corner near the southwest corner of the meeting-house in the line of said Peck's land; from thence running north nineteen rods by said Peck's land to a stake and stones for a corner; thence east sixteen rods to a stake and stones for a corner, — standing on the west side of the highway; thence bounded by the said highway southerly till it comes even with the first corner; thence west two rods to the first corner. To have and to hold the said granted bargained premises, with all the privileges to the same belonging or in any way appertaining to the inhabitants of said precinct, their heirs and assignees to their proper use, benefit and behoof. And the said John Sweet for me my heirs, executors, administrators do covenant and grant to and with the inhabitants of said precinct, their heirs and assignees, that before the unsealing hereof I am the true, sole and lawful owner of the above said premises, and am lawfully — and possessed of the same in my own proper right, of a good, perfect and absolute estate of inheritance, in fee simple, and have in myself good right and lawful authority to convey and confirm said premises in manner as above said and the inhabitants of said precinct, their heirs and assignees, shall and may from time to time, and at all times by virtue of these presents, lawfully and peaceably and quietly have, hold and possess and enjoy the said described premises with the appurtenances free, and clear, and freely, and clearly acquitted, exonerated, and discharged of from all other gifts, grants, bargains, sales, leases, mortgages with entales, Jointures, Dowers, judgments, executions, encumbrances and entent furthermore I, the said John Sweet, for my heirs, executors, administrators, do covenent and enjoy the above demise and premises to them the said inhabitants of said precinct, their heirs and assignees against the lawful claims or demands of any person or persons whatsoever to warrant, secure and defend. I am witness whereof, I, the said John Sweet, have hereunto set my hand and seal this day of one thousand seven hundred and forty-four, signed and sealed and delivered in presence of

Thomas Wilmarth }
Robert Titus }

John Sweet [L. S.]

The church was erected as has been seen, and later the burying-lot laid out in the northwest corner of what was called the "meeting-house lot," it being a purchase made by the parish. The meetinghouse lot then extended across the present railroad tracks near the church and into the present common, and to this portion of the common, the northern, the parish have without the slightest doubt a valid claim.

Our information on the "common" question is to be found in the "History of the Attleborough Common," a pamphlet prepared and published in 1885 by the gentlemen who were then most interested in settling the much discussed matter of ownership and in making the spot an ornament to the village. Having acknowledged this first asserted claim of the parish to a portion of the common, the history goes on to consider the second, "an alleged purchase of land." An article in the warrant for a parish meeting which was held March 31, 1794, reads as follows: "To see if the inhabitants will agree and vote to buy of Dr. Abijah Everett and Dr. Syril Carpenter and Abial Dunham, 191 rods of land from of said meeting-house for to enlarge the common." A committee was chosen at this meeting to confer with the owners of the property and report. This the committee did, in due time "advising the parish to buy eighty-six rods of Dr. Everett, and thirty rods of Deacon Syril Carpenter and Abial Dunham." This report was accepted, but no report of a subsequent purchase is extant. The vote to purchase proves only that the parish was not previously possessed of this land, and while it is natural to suppose that the purchase may have been made, the absence of records to show actual possession makes the claim only a presumptive one and therefore not strong. The third parish claim was for a "wedge of land south of the John Sweet lot," the same being a bequest from the heirs of Dr. Abijah Everett in 1829. With regard to this claim we quote directly from the above-mentioned history of the common. It says: —

"In describing the claims of the parish to the wedge of land south of the John Sweet lot, on what is now Park street, it is necessary to revert to the middle of the last century and take our position on what is now Dr. Sanford's corner. South Main street was then the Old Bay road, and Park street, a highway leading directly to the Common. In 1765 one Jonas Richardson lived on this corner and owned a large farm, comprising many acres lying south of said highway and east of the Bay Road. This highway then existing and running from Dr. Sanford's corner to the meeting-house, a distance of some thirty-five rods, was originally laid out three rods wide, but had been narrowed to two rods, so that complaint was made to the selectmen and the road was again laid out three rods wide in 1765. This road is designated in the layout as running from the northwest corner of Jonas Richardson's lands, about thirty-two rods until it came to said meeting-house.

"In 1787, Jonas Richardson, 'Doctor of Physsick,' sold this farm of thirty-one acres to Abijah Everett, who held the same until 1789, when he

sold it to Jabez Ellis. In these deeds the distance from the corner to the meeting-house, along the highway, is designated as thirty-five and a half rods, a part of said highway being the present Park street.

"In 1795, Jabez Ellis sold the premises to one Amos Wilmarth, and it was at this time that the bend in the road where W. H. Hardin's drug store now is, (1885) was established, since in the deed passed by Jabez Ellis to Amos Wilmarth the frontage on the highway was given at twenty rods instead of thirty-five and a half rods, as in all previous deeds, the line then swerving from the highway in the direction of the present Park street, while all the other boundaries remained unchanged." The south part of the common was thus left unconveyed, and still in the hands of Jabez Ellis. Since this date "no legal conveyance of the southern portion of the Common has ever been made to any one." On January 31, 1829, Amherst Everett and others, the heirs of Dr. Abijah Everett, "quitclaimed their interest in the Common to the Second Precinct of Attleborough," but, as in 1789 the father had deeded his entire farm to Jabez Ellis, they had in reality no interest in the common at all, and this conveyance therefore meant nothing really substantial. Thus argued, then, it was proved that the parish had in reality a thoroughly valid claim to only "that portion of the present common which is covered by the John Sweet deed."

Within the past fifteen years two lawsuits relating to the titles of this land have taken place. The first one arose from the laying out of the highway adjoining the railroad and running from Park Street directly into Pleasant Street. At this time a small part of the John Sweet lot was taken, and the parish called a sheriff's jury, placing their damages against the town at the sum of $3,200. The trial was conducted at Union Hall, commencing on December 9, 1874, and ending on December 12 following. The jury after the hearing consulted for several hours and finally brought in a verdict for the plaintiff and awarded $75 damages.

Again we quote from the history: "Major David E. Holman, whose land formerly belonged to Syril Carpenter and Abial Dunham, in common with the public had crossed the Common at will and claimed an unobstructed right of way. Accordingly in the summer of 1873, Maj. Holman several times removed the fence that had been erected by the parish, and opened a way across the old John Sweet lot. The fence was replaced by the parish and left standing for some time. In the spring of 1876 Maj. Holman again removed the fence, crossing the Common south of the old John Sweet lot. The parish then brought suit against Mr. Holman in the Superior Court, in the March term of 1876, at Taunton. The defendant required the parish to specify which trespass the plaintiff relied upon in the case, and the plaintiff selected the trespass of 1873, which opened a way across the old John Sweet lot. Many old residents of Attleboro, and among them the defendant and his brother, Samuel Holman, testified to a clear recollection of the old church

and its surroundings. That the land had never been fenced prior to the enclosing of the same by the parish in the fall of 1872, and had always been open to the public. The court in summing up the case said that for the purposes of that trial he should hold that the title to the land in question, (which involved the old John Sweet lot,) was in the parish, but that the use of it was in the public. That the parish might embellish the same and maintain their fence, but that at any time when the fence obstructed public usage, it might be removed by the public. In this case the defendant claimed a private right of way and justified his act under that claim, which position the court held was not tenable, as the use of the Common was in the public." The court in this case awarded the plaintiff the sum of $25 damage.

After this suit the matter remained quiescent untill the fall of 1878, "when a platform was erected on the south end of the Common for dancing." The parish committee attempted to remove this platform, but they were prevented by G. M. Horton. The parish immediately sued Mr. Horton and the case remained on the files of the court for three years, when it was "discontinued without coming to a trial."

Soon after this a movement was set on foot by citizens to purchase the right of the parish in the common. "At its annual meeting in March 1881, the parish voted to sell this right for $1,000, under proper conditions and to proper persons," and the purchase was finally consummated. At the annual meeting, March 25, 1882, the old committee on parish lands presented a report and was then discharged, a new committeee being appointed in its place. The regular parish committee at this time consisted of S. W. Carpenter, John Thacher, and N. D. Briggs. To this number were added J. H. Sturdy, E. S. Horton, C. E. Bliss, E. S. Capron, and J. B. Savery, and they were vested with the necessary power "to sell the parish's right in the Common for $1,000, and to determine the conditions." This committee held its first meeting on the March 30 following its appointment and then determined upon what conditions the transfer should be made. Among these was one providing that the property should "be conveyed to fifteen trustees to be held in trust for the public, and that the premises should be used for no purposes injurious to church property."

The citizens who had interested themselves in this matter had meanwhile subscribed the required sum, and early in April they met and chose a committee to confer with the one appointed by the parish. This committee consisted of the following gentlemen: J. M. Bates, C. E. Hayward, B. J. Angell, Henry Wexel, and G. M. Horton. On the evening of April 6, the two committees met in the town clerk's office and worked together in perfect harmony. Jointly they appointed the following named gentlemen as a board of trustees: J. M. Bates, J. H. Sturdy, E. S. Horton, John Thacher, L. Z. Carpenter, A. A. Bushee, C. E. Bliss, E. S. Capron, H. S. Babcock, B. J. Angell, C. E. Hayward, Henry Wexel, J. L. Carpenter, W. H. Goff, and S. W.

Carpenter; and at the same time "E. S. Horton for the parish, and J. H. Sturdy for the donors, were instructed to each have separate deeds executed, to be submitted for choice, approval or rejection at a meeting to be held in one week."

The following is a copy of the subscription paper with the names of the subscribers and the amounts each subscribed: —

Attleborough, March 22, 1882.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Attleboro, who desire to see the "Common" so called, placed under different control, and used for the benefit of the Public, agree to pay the sums subscribed by us for the purpose of paying to the second parish the sum of one thousand dollars, ($1,000) provided that the parish will deed all the right and title that they have in said property, and that deed or conveyance shall be satisfactory to a committee chosen by the subscribers or citizens of this place.

Also a committee to be chosen by the parish, as they deem best, said subscription to be null and void if satisfactory settlement cannot be made on or before July, 1882.

Said parish at a regular meeting voted to release all right and title upon the payment of the above named sum.

J. M. Bates, Chas. E. Hayward, B. J. Angell, G. M. Horton, and Mrs. E. J. Horton each subscribed $100; — E. S. Horton, Chas. E. Bliss, J. H. Sturdy, A. Bushee & Co., Wm. Blackinton, Watson & Newell, Cummings & Wexel, and Pierce & Carpenter the sum of $50 each; — "Cash" $25; — S. W. Carpenter, G. N. Crandall, L. Z. Carpenter, E. S. Capron, Wm. M. Fisher, $10 each; E. Sanford, $5; and again G. M. Horton $20 in addition, which completed the necessary amount.

Following is the deed from the parish to the trustees: —

Know all Men by these Presents:

That the Second Precinct in Attleborough, a corporation duly established by law in Attleborough, in the County of Bristol, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of the sum of one thousand dollars, paid by Joseph M. Bates, James H. Sturdy, Everett S. Horton, John Thacher, Lucius Z. Carpenter, Albert A. Bushee, Chas. E. Bliss, Everett S. Capron, Hartford S. Babcock, Benjamin J. Angell, Charles E. Hayward, Henry Wexel, Jesse L. Carpenter, William H. Goff, and Shepard W. Carpenter, all of said Attleborough, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Joseph M. Bates, James H. Sturdy, Everett S. Horton, John Thacher, Lucius Z. Carpenter, Albert A. Bushee, Chas. E. Bliss, Everett S. Capron, Hartford S. Babcock, Benjamin J. Angell, Charles E. Hayward, Henry Wexel, Jesse L. Carpenter, William H. Goff, and Shepard W. Carpenter, and their successors and assigns to their own use and behoof forever, but in trust nevertheless, for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of the present territorial limits of Attleborough Fire District, No 1, of said Attleborough.

The premises to be held forever for public purposes as a Park or Common, and said premises or any part thereof, shall not be sold or conveyed to any person or persons.

In case the above conditions are not complied with, then the within granted premises shall revert to the Second Precinct in Attleborough.

Provided, however, that should the premises, or any part of the same, at any time be taken by any act of the legislature, the compensation received by reason of the same, shall and may be used by the said trustees, or their successors, in the improvement of the remaining portion of said premises, the purchase of land for, or improvement of another park within the present limits of the said "Attleboro Fire District No. 1," or towards the establishment or maintenance of a Public Library for the use of the inhabitants of the said present limits of Attleboro Fire District, No. 1.

The above named trustees shall hold the office of trustees for the period of three years from the date of this deed, or until their successors are appointed.

At the expiration of the said three years, or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, at a meeting of the voters of said district, called by the Secretary of the above named board for

that purpose, a board of fifteen trustees shall be elected for the term of three years, and thereafter the election of trustees shall occur at the end of each and every three years, or as soon thereafter as convenient at a meeting called as aforesaid for that purpose.

Any vacancy occurring in the board of trustees shall be filled by the then existing board.

In witness whereof the said Second Precinct in Attleborough has caused its seal to be hereto affixed, and these presents to be signed, acknowledged and delivered in its name and behalf, by John Thacher, its treasurer, this sixteenth day of June, A.D. 1882

In presence of

[Signed] JOB B. SAVERY.

Second Precinct in Attleboro, signed by

JOHN THACHER [L. S.]

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Bristol, s.s., June 16th 1882.

Then personally appeared the above John Thacher, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of the Second Precinct in Attleborough.

Before me.

[Signed] JOB B. SAVERY,
Justice of the Peace.

Bristol County, North District, Sept. 23, 1882.

Then received and recorded this deed in book 406 of Land Records, pages 169 and 170.

ATTEST. [Signed] J. E. WILBUR,
Registrar.

A meeting was held in Sturdy Block September 12, 1883, and the following trustees organized: Joseph M. Bates, Everett S. Horton, Lucius Z. Carpenter, Charles E. Bliss, Hartford S. Babcock, Charles E. Hayward, Jesse L. Carpenter, Shephard W. Carpenter, James H. Sturdy, John Thacher, Albert A. Bushee, Everett S. Capron, Benjamin J. Angell, Henry Wexel, and William H. Goff, with J. M. Bates, Pres., J. H. Sturdy, Vice-Pres., and E. S. Horton, Sec. and Treas.

It was some time before any practical results beyond consummating the purchase could be attained. Plans as to the best methods of embellishing the common had to be discussed and decided upon, and then the all-important funds needed had to be solicited. Under the earnest and diligent efforts of the trustees, none of whom were more diligent than Major Horton, these things were finally accomplished. The ground was curbed and properly graded, and paths laid out in various directions, the expenditure for this work being about $1,500. For doing this work seven persons subscribed $100, four $50, eleven $25, and sixteen $10 each, the total amounting to a little less than the sum required. The remaining balance owed by the trustees has been or will very soon be paid.

Meanwhile the people of the community had been requested to donate trees to be set out on the common when it should be properly prepared, and to this call there was a very generous and general response, as may be seen by the following list of donors: Geo. Mackie, G. T. Holmes, Seneca Cole, C. M. Gustin, C. B. Des Jardins, Ed. Miller, D. C. Club and friends, L. Z. Carpenter, Ray Horton, H. S. Babcock, W. O. Sweet, P. M. Carpenter, John Mahony, P. E. Brady, Mrs. W. M. Fisher, J. J. Thayer, Robert Burns,

G. A. Adams, T. W. Williams, Mabel Horton, Mamie Horton, John Thacher, E. D. Robbins, E. Claflin, Isaac Braman, C. E. Parmenter, Peter Nerney, George Randall, Alice Holden, Dr. C. S. Holden, J. O. Mowry, O. W. Hawkins, Elijah Capron, S. N. Carpenter. E. E. Engley, Nella A. Blackinton, G. L. Titus, Mrs. Chatterton's school, J. J. Horton, L. W. Barnes, S. M. Holman, E. H. Sweet, C. L. Watson, S. W. Carpenter, F. I. Babcock, J. T. Bates, B. A. Cummings, S. H. Sprague, J. C. Cummings, J. L. Carpenter, Walter A. Capron, L. B. Capron, Ralph B. Capron, F. A. Newell, E. A. Morse, L. T. Starkey, High School classes of '88 and '89, Grammar School classes of '88 and '89, Sub Grammar School girls, Sub Grammar School boys, and Ladies' Relief Corps.

Each tree was numbered and the name of the donor of the same attached, and these have been planted to the number of ninety-three. May each one of these saplings grow and flourish mightily until it shall become a great tree, and the whole place be "a thing of beauty, and a joy forever"!

This whole work was done under the management of the trustees chosen in 1883. The only changes made in the board up to 1887 were caused by the death of Mr. Hayward and of Mr. Angell, in whose places J. L. Sweet and F. A. Newell were elected.

We have given the history of the Attleborough Common thus at length, because the spot is an historic one. Many memories of early days cluster about it, and its story furnishes many glimpses full of interest far back into the past. It is also a great pleasure to record such actions as those of the liberal-minded and public-spirited citizens who enlisted so heartily in this laudable enterprise. They had constant need to remember the fact that their really beneficial ends were positively possible of attainment only at the cost of unremitting effort, for many discouragements met them on the way, and many and great obstacles lay in their path; but with great determination they resolutely pushed the work steadily forward to its creditable completion. For this they richly deserve hearty congratulations and high encomiums of praise from the community and town, and indeed from many a passer-by who must have wondered why the enterprising village of East Attleborough left this central spot to be so long a blot upon its otherwise pleasing appearance.

If every controversy could with certainty be brought to its close in so amicable and highly promising a manner as this one, the world might well adopt the theory that "the end justifies the means." It might even indeed be wise to start a small quarrel now and again, that out of the great evil thereof a greater good might come.

CHAPTER XXI.

CEMETERIES.

THE oldest graveyard in town, where the first settlers are buried, is the "Old North Burying Ground," or "Hatch's burying ground," as it is sometimes called, situated on the easterly side of the "Oulde Bay Road," later the Boston and Providence turnpike, opposite the Hatch tavern, formerly the site of Woodcock's Ordinary. The situation was the result of accident. During Philip's war, Nathaniel Woodcock was slain here by the Indians and buried on the spot where he fell, which spot is still pointed out in the centre of the yard. This parcel of land, "at least six rods square, or the contents thereof," was set aside by John Woodcock, the father of Nathaniel, especially for his own family and his neighbors (for it will be remembered it was in this vicinity that the first village settlement in town was made), and they were to have the use of it for burial purposes forever, as occasion should require. This was the only graveyard in the vicinity for several years, "and the little settlement made use in common of neighbor Woodcock's ground." No stones or mounds were raised over the earliest graves, probably to keep the number of deaths from the knowledge of the Indians. As the settlement increased and the enemy therefore became less dangerous, the place assumed the appearance of a cemetery.

Some curious inscriptions were placed upon the stones here. The most famous one is doubtless that over Cæsar the slave. He was given by his mother while he was an infant to Lieutenant Josiah Maxcy. When the latter died, Cæsar came into the hands of Levi Maxcy. Being a waiter in the public house so long kept on the site of the "Old Garrison," and which in those days was the resort of many travelers on that route, he was "known to all the region round," and after his death many of these travelers "used to stop over to visit the ground and read the strange inscription over his grave." He was a member of the Baptist church at North Attleborough. Tradition has preserved numerous anecdotes of him. He was simple-hearted, but proved through a long life a remarkably honest and faithful servant in the family where he lived. He survived his first master, and after his own death, January 15, 1780, was buried in the same yard. A decent stone was raised over his grave by his younger master, Levi Maxcy, in whose care he was left (as has been said), with the following inscription, which in its graphic lines will long preserve the memory of "Cæsar, the faithful Ethiopian": —

Here lies the best of slaves,
Now turning into dust;
Cæsar, the Ethiopian, craves
A place among the just.

His faithful soul has fled
To realms of heavenly light,
And by the blood that Jesus shed
Is changed from *Black* to *White*.

January 15, he quitted the stage,
In the 77th year of his age,
1780.

Cæsar's stone has been broken in pieces and taken away. The stones in this yard were dark, of what we call black slate. The only white one erected there was to the memory of the wife of Cæsar's owner.

Upon the stone of Josiah Draper, who died in 1795, was the following epitaph: —

Jesus his Sacrifice and Death,
Shall be my Finery and Wedding Dress.

The following is the epitaph of Hannah Walcott, consort of Pentecost Walcott: —

Most suddenly I've lost my breath,
My eyes are closed in silent death,
My husband dear pray now prepare
With me this dreadful fare to share.

One Josiah Love, who died November 1, 1791, in his twenty-second year, had above him this inscription: —

My breath has gone at middle Age,
And Death has swept me off the stage.

There have been very few, if any, interments here since 1810, and the larger part of the stones bear date from the latter part of the eighteenth century. The Woodcocks, Maxcys, and Blackintons of the Baptist faith, lie buried in this spot. Deacon John Daggett, who was the progenitor of that family in town, was buried here, and the following was upon his stone: —

Here lies interred the body of Deacon John Daggett,
Dec'd, Sept. 7th 1724, in the 63d year of his age.

Upon the stone of one Thomas Daggett, who died in 1778, in the eighty-fourth year of his age, are these words: —

Here lies the man
Washed in the Saviour's blood,
Once a sinner,
Now a saint with God's Christ.

The stones of some of the Maxcys bear date of 1757 and 1758, and Lieutenant Josiah Maxcy "died in 1772, in the 64th year of his age, after burying his wife and eight children." The following lines were inscribed upon his tombstone: —

Behold and see as you pass by,
Mary my wife, and family
Lie here interred in the cold ground
Waiting the great Archangel's sound,
At whose dread trump the earth shall quake
And all the sleeping dust awake.
These bodies then shall surely rise
To the fair mansions in the skies.

Upon that of an infant son, the following: —

Jonathan the fourth born son
Of our posterity,
God numbers first unto the dust,
Who in his Grace doth lie.

To the fifth son, also named Jonathan, these lines were inscribed: —

Five pleasant children in the Grave
At present to remain,
A Sovereign God it thus would have
Behold, blessed be his name.
Behold, thyself come see;
And such once even we as thou,
And surely thou shalt be
Even dust as we are now.

The following inscription belongs to the sixth son in this same family: —

A pleasant child of earthly clod,
Poor heart, to Death he did submit.
O, may his parents hear [bear?] the Rod
And him that hath appointed it.

One more epitaph was found belonging to this numerous family, reading as follows: —

In memory of Josiah, son of Mr. Josiah and Mary Maxcy, who died Sep. 23d, 1766, in ye 28th years of his Age, Being ye first born child and ye eight here buried.

Many now probably all of the above inscriptions are wholly obliterated, for some years since the following were the only names that could be found designating the resting-places of these worthy dead: "Ebenezer Swan; Joseph Guild, 'That pious and excellent man'; Deacon Josiah Everett; Richard Everett; Jeremiah Clark; Henry Maxcy; Josiah Love; Nathan Richards, his wife Mehitable, and their daughter Grace aged 24 years; William Everett; Martha Smith; Deacon Joshua Everett; Mayhew Daggett, a representative in the general assembly; James Manning Daggett; David Whiting, and Sylvia his daughter; Lionel Daggett, and his wife Esther."

More than fifty years ago the author wrote thus: "This cemetery is now in a state of dilapidation, most of the stones have fallen down, and the whole is rapidly going to decay. It is the duty of that neighborhood or the town, (a duty which gratitude demands) to see the ground decently enclosed and the stones erected, that the few memorials which now exist of our early ancestry may be preserved."

The work of decay has been going on ceaselessly during all the years since those words were penned, and at the present time the little burial place is in a pitiable condition. Something must be done and that speedily, or every trace of this interesting and valuable landmark of antiquity will be lost irrecoverably, and nothing be left but a dim, traditional remembrance of its existence.

In 1873 an attempt was made to inaugurate the work of restoration. A meeting of citizens was called at the old Universalist Church and a committee of five chosen to take this matter in charge. Mr. E. Ira Richards, Jr., and Hon. John Daggett were appointed by this committee to solicit funds. It was thought that a thousand dollars would be required to properly secure the desired and proper result. Mr. Richards collected or made subscriptions to the amount of over four hundred dollars, — what Mr. Daggett did is not known to the Editor, — but the "committee of five" took no further action and the matter was allowed to fall through.

The spot should at least be enclosed to prevent wanton destruction and the depredations of cattle which wander there now at will to graze and trample upon and break the few remaining stones, and as many of these as possible should be restored and set up. Better still perhaps, as someone has suggested, a monument might be erected with the names of the dead, so far as these could be ascertained, plainly inscribed upon it. It would doubtless be necessary only to present this matter properly to the wealthy gentlemen of the town, to secure their interest and attention, and ensure the accomplishment of the laudable purpose in this or some other manner; and Mr. Richards has recently said he stands ready as one to do his share "toward preserving an object whose antiquity in itself, almost any other town would be proud to possess and prouder still to keep." Or, indeed, the matter might with great propriety be brought before the town, asking for an appropriation of the necessary amount (a very trifling sum when so distributed), and we feel confident that no loyal citizen would raise a dissenting voice against favorable action upon such an article in a town warrant.[1]

The next burying ground laid out in town was that at South Attleborough, in common parlance called "the city." It originally consisted of about two acres given to the town for the purpose July 21, 1715, by the North Pur-

[1] This matter has at length been taken in hand by the citizens of North Attleborough, and at a certain town meeting it was voted that that town should appropriate $1,000 toward the preservation of this ground provided a like sum should be subscribed by private individuals. That amount has been raised and two committees, one for the town and one for the citizens, have been appointed to act conjointly in carrying out the proposed plan. The little burial plot will be fenced and improved under the direction of a landscape gardener, and the money remaining after that is completed will be used for a monument to mark this spot where lie our earliest dead. It is in the highest degree meet and proper to observe this bicentennial year by preserving from further desecration one of the most interesting of all the historical spots within the original limits of the old town, and it is always well for the living to thus honor their brave and pious dead.

chase.[1] It has had additions and is the regular place of interment for the people of South and West Attleborough. The inhabitants of the Read and Ide neighborhood also come here to bury their dead. Its situation is a pleasant one, on a little rise of ground, at the junction of the road from this "neighborhood" with that from the East village to South Attleborough, near the old "city mill." It is one of the most interesting of the cemeteries in town, for here lie buried many of the leaders in our public affairs a century ago — men whose names should ever be honored — and, side by side with them, many "mothers in Israel" whose memories are reverenced by all who knew them. Here are found such well-known names as May, Tyler, Newell, Ide, Robinson, Read, Barrows, Guild, Titus, Draper, Whiting, Carpenter, Tingley, Day, Peck, Capron, Woodcock, Fuller, Hunt, Maxcy, etc.

It is a pleasure to wander about this little city of the dead, for one is not saddened by signs of destruction or neglect. Time, it is true, has worked his will on the ancient monuments, but gently and tenderly as is his wont, for his touch is never harsh or rough. The more modern portions of the ground are as usual laid out in lots with graveled pathways between, and some of these are enclosed by fences or close arbor vitæ hedges, and there are numerous handsome and substantial monuments. The central and most elevated part is the most ancient, and here, covering a considerable tract of land, stand row upon row of black slate stones with now and again upon the outskirts a gleam of white marble. Almost all traces of paths are obliterated — perhaps but few were ever made — and people of different families with seemingly no connection lie closely side by side. These stones are all in a remarkable state of preservation, only two among the many having apparently been broken, and one of these has been carefully mended; but while they are all upright and promise to stand firm for many years to come a large proportion are so moss-grown as to render it a matter of exceeding difficulty to trace the inscriptions. On some a few words will be quite legible, or a name or two, a date or a line of poetry can be read; sometimes nothing can be traced correctly, while again the whole inscription is quite plain. Some of the stones are curiously ornamented — angel faces meet the eye and the familiar funeral urns; now and again a grinning skull is seen, sometimes with the cross-bones underneath, and one was noticed with a tracery of leaves all around, and two hands with the finger tips just meeting finished this at the top. Underneath lies the "Bodey" of one "Mr. Christopher Bowen," a young man who died in 1749.

A few inscriptions were copied to be placed here. The quaintest as well as the oldest stone found is about two feet high, its top rounded, with the following inscription in five close lines crowded into the circular space, leaving the rest of the stone bare: "Here lies the Body of Martha the wife of

[1] See N. P. Books, vol. II, p. 28.

John French Aged 43. Died August the 17 in the year 1717." Two stones, side by side, erected to the memory of a father and daughter, the former quaintly ornamented, are noticeable for the orthography and peculiar arrangement of the inscriptions: —

Here lieth the body
Of Insine Jeremiah
Whipple, who departed,
This life may y^e 14^th
1721 in y^e 38 year
of his age.

Here lieth y^e
Body of Amy
y^e Daughter of
Insine Jeremiah
Whipple who
Died April y^e 27
1721 in y^e 3^d
year of Her Age.

The date 1726 was found several times. A Mr. Samuel Bishop died in that year, Hannah Stephens, "y^e wife of John Stephens, Dec'd January y^e 14^th," and Samuel French, a boy in his twelfth year. Priscilla Robbins, "aged 18 years and 10 months," died in 1729. Mr. Jacob Newell died "Feb^y, 15th: 1779 in y^e 75^th Year of his age." The rest of his epitaph is illegible, but that of Sarah, his widow, who died in October of the same year in her seventy-second year, is as follows: —

Let worms devour my flesh,
And crumble it to dust,
My God shall raise my frame,
To live among the just.

Another reads: —

In Memory of E^sn
Noah Fuller who
Died Auguft y^e 10^th
1786 in y^e 74^th
Year of his age.

The poetry here is illegible, but that inscribed to Lieutenant Aaron Barrows, who died December 21, 1801, in his fifty-eighth year, is perfect in its preservation and certainly after its style is complete: —

My time has come next may be thine,
Prepare for it whilst thou hast time,
And that thou may'st prepared be,
Live unto Him who died for thee.

One inscription can be seen where the surname, Robinson, is divided, though there seems to be sufficient space on the line for the full name, but here as in other instances the intention is apparent to make the lines even in length, like the pages of a book. Perhaps the most curious epitaph in this yard is that on the tombstone of "the Frenchman," so long a resident of the neighboring village and the donor of the school legacy in that district. This epitaph he composed himself, and entire it reads as follows: —

Joseph Antoine Richaud,
a native of Ginaservis,
born Jan. 24, 1748,
died Dec. 23, 1825.

To an invisible eternal
God. To him alone I trust
my poor soul. And when nature
revives again,
My soul return in a
different form
Full of blessing.

A number of persons buried here lived to a very advanced age. Lieutenant Moses Tyler died October 9, 1804, in his eighty-third year. His wife Patience died in 1756, so it would seem that in a remarkable degree he was faithful to her memory by living a widower for nearly fifty years. Beneath one of the numerous large evergreens growing here and nearly covered by its low-bending branches are four small stones in a row with such a record as combined has rarely, perhaps never, been seen elsewhere, for each of the persons to whom they were erected passed the fourscore mark in years. Edward Pitcher died December 26, 1797, in his eighty-second year; Mrs. Keziah Pitcher died June 17, 1808, aged eighty-two years; Mr. Samuel Newell died March 31, 1830, in his eighty-third year; and Mrs. Mary Read, relict of Amos Read, died in 1834, aged eighty-two. One Benj. Allen died in 1808 in his eighty-seventh year, and his inscription makes him suggest to passers by his grave: "Tho' with age and pain I die, Yet I hope to live on high." The three most aged persons, so far as discovered, placed here for their final sleep, are the widow Damiris Tree, who died November 18, 1780, "in y^e^ 92d Year of her age," Jeremiah Pierce, who died during his ninety-fourth year, and Captain Samuel Robinson, who died November 2, 1826, in his ninety-eighth year.

Rather hopeful and cheering are the lines inscribed to one Loammi Day and Mary, his wife: —

Calm is the spot that hides the good and just,
And sweet their slumbers on the bed of dust,
Her bright example wipes our tears away,
And points the passage to the realms of day.

One more epitaph is given because the expression of sentiment it shows is all too rare in this world of forgetfulness and is worthy of preservation in annals far more widespread than these can ever hope to be: —

In Memory
of
Martin Robinson,
Born in Attleborough,
March 20, 1792.
Died in Providence,
Feb. 13, 1852.
This monument is erected by his
Providence friends,
As a token of their high regard for his many virtues,
his great integrity of character,
and purity of life.

On the highest spot, nearly in the centre of the cemetery, in the very midst of the beloved people for whom he so long labored, as if still leading and ministering unto them, lies the Rev. Habijah Weld, his wife by his side, surrounded by various members of his numerous family; and a few rods away his successor, Rev. John Wilder, his first wife, Esther, "the excellent consort," three daughters, Esther, Betsey Brown, and Julia Green Wilder, and an infant son, who lived but twenty days and was named Habijah Weld, are buried.

One lingers here willingly and still lingers, more and more loth to leave the sacred spot where the quiet belonging to a city of the dead still reigns. In the restful atmosphere and peaceful silence of such an enclosure visions of the past best love to gather, and here is one ancient burial place where memories of the early days may be recalled undisturbed as yet by the distracting noises and tumults of our busy life to-day, though not very far away on the one side there throbs a great modern engine, and on the other now and again through the trees may be caught glimpses of a lightning-driven car speeding swiftly on its way.

There were in the course of time several small burial lots set apart for the accommodation of families or the inhabitants of sections in various parts of the town. Among these was a small tract on Washington Street in North Attleborough at the terminus of the Branch Railroad. The interments made in it never reached a large number, and recently all the bodies have been removed to Mount Hope Cemetery, but no disposition of the land has been made.

The Mann burying ground is a small family yard on the land of Mr. Gamaliel B. Draper on the "Old Post Road" running through the western part of the town. Its occupants are all members of the family of Dr. Bezaleel Mann and their descendants. The epitaphs of Dr. Mann, of his wife, and of his son, Dr. Herbert Mann, who was lost in the awful catastrophe to the brig General Arnold in Plymouth Harbor, have already been given in a previous chapter.

The inscriptions on some of the other stones erected to the dead here are given: —

This Stone
is erected to the memory
of
Mrs. Mary Draper,
wife of Mr. Josiah Draper, & eldest
Daughter of Dr. B. & B. Mann. She
died May 2d, 1808, in the 54th Year of
her age.
She conducted her household and her
affairs with discretion. She tempered
her authority with a happy mixture of
tender affection.
She met Death with the resignation
and hope of a Christian.

There is no stone erected to the memory of Mr. Josiah Draper. On that of a son is the following: —

In memory of Benjamin
son of Mr. Josiah Draper,
& Mrs. Mary, his wife,
who died Oct. 12th, 1802,
in ye 18th year of his age.
In bloom of youth I was cut down,
Just as the grass & flowers were mown,
From death's arrest no age is free,
Prepare to die and follow me.

Sacred
To the memory of
Bebe Mann Capron,
only daughter of
Doctor Seth Capron,
& Eunice, his wife.
She died grievously
lamented on the 25th,
day of Dec., A.D. 1796.
Aged 21 months & 17 days.

Here lies Eliza Mann,
daughter of Jno. Milton
Mann, & of his wife E
lizabeth Mann, who
died Decem'r 27th, 1790,
aged 1 Year, 9 Months & 8 Days.
This sweet unfolding beauteous flow'r,
Th' all bounteous God in love had given,
But soon, too soon 't was crop'd from earth
To bloom in heaven,
Transplanted hence.

The only other cemetery in what is properly West Attleborough is the Paine burying ground. This is in the Holmes neighborhood, and the land was given for the purpose about forty years ago by a resident of that vicinity, named Paine. Members of the Sweetland and Holmes families constitute the majority of the persons buried there.

There is a cemetery connected with the little church at Briggsville, and though both it and the meetinghouse are over the Rehoboth line many of its silent inhabitants were once residents of this town. Doubtless numbers of the stones here bear quite ancient dates.

Upon a small island in the mill pond at Dodgeville, connected with the land by a roadway lined with trees, is the burial place of the family from whom the village derives its name, who owned and carried on the manufactory there many years ago. Only persons of the name of Dodge or members of the family are buried in this ground. It is a pretty spot planted with trees and surrounded by gently lapping water. The sleep of its inmates must be peaceful with the soft green grass of the summer time above them or the

pure white mantle of winter snow; they heed not the hum and clatter of the busy mills hard by, but rest calmly with murmuring waters all around them and beautiful trees whispering soothingly over their heads.

Between Woodlawn Cemetery and the Branch Railroad there is a little knoll shaded by old trees, and overgrown with wild, tangled shrubs and vines, and containing a small cluster of gravestones. This has for generations been known as the "old Peck burying-ground." It is no doubt a part of the farm of Hezekiah Peck who settled here "soon after 1700," and whose house stood near where the present "old Peck house" now stands, where the railroad crosses North Main Street. By the books of the Propriety it may be seen that as early as 1709 he and his family began to have large tracts of land laid out to them along the Bungay "Cedar Swamps," — which extended from North Main Street at Blackintonville for quite a distance up the river, — also on "Bungay plain," and at the southwest end of the "great Bungay meadows"; and this latter "lay out" very probably includes this burial spot. It is a part of what is known in the Capron family as the "30 acre lot," the bounds of which are given as follows: "Beginning at the Bungay river bridge, running along by North Main St. to the land now owned by Mrs. B. B. Day, and Mr. A. M. Everett, then east between Mr. E. B. Bliss' and Mrs. Lucas Daggett's house, crossing Bank St. to John Sweet's land, then north to the river, then by the river back to the bridge." Subsequently to 1753 the widow of Hezekiah Peck the second of this town sold her dower right in her husband's lands to Joseph Capron, of this town. Very probably this thirty-acre lot was set apart as her dower, and the Joseph Capron to whom she sold it was her husband's nephew — the son of Judith Peck and Captain Joseph Capron. He was grandfather to Joseph W. Capron of this town. February 3, 1797, Sarah, widow of the above-mentioned Joseph, sold this same land to Jonathan Peck, her son-in-law. He was grandson of Hezekiah the second, and father of the late Capron Peck. It is said that at one time there was a road along the south side of this land, running from North Main Street, as it is now called, to the "Norton road," now Pleasant Street.

The first Hezekiah Peck of this town was without doubt the first person buried in this ground, the spot being probably selected by his family at his death in 1723. The site was a pleasant one, in view of his house and more convenient than the Woodcock ground, four miles away, or the newly laid out one at South Attleborough, not very much nearer. A writer speaking of him and his wife says: "They were buried near his residence, the place afterwards becoming the family burial ground." Like the ground now best known as the "old Hatch burying-ground," this spot was used most probably as both a family and neighborhood burial place.

It is supposed that Banfield Capron, the first of that name in town, was buried here, but there is not the slightest trace of his grave to be found.

There was no lack of means in his family, but his numerous children, to whom he had been very generous, one and all "forgot to erect a stone to his memory." This fate was by no means singular, for many a worthy man lies in the bosom of mother earth, whose resting-place almost from the very beginning has been forgotten and unknown. Some of his descendants were buried in this spot, probably during the forty or more years when it was in possession of his family; and some of these have been removed to the Old Kirk Yard, and from one lot to another there. Mr. Capron used this thirty-acre lot as a pasturing field for cows, and portions of it have been devoted to that purpose up to the present time. These animals have no doubt knocked down and trodden upon numbers of the gravestones, but their vandalism has been equaled or surpassed during these many years by that dreaded destroyer, the typical "small boy," whose chief end and aim in life seems to be to demolish whatever he can lay his hands on, and upon whose natural ear the sound of cracking stones, if he wields the hammer, falls with a peculiar attraction, even like strains of entrancing music upon a more cultivated ear.

There are at this time of writing but twenty-one stones remaining. Four of these are lying flat upon the ground, nearly all are more or less chipped and broken, and many of the inscriptions are almost entirely effaced. All are of the old-fashioned black slate and are hoary with the lichen growth of more than six scores of years. The lettering on a few is still traceable.

The most ancient stone, that erected to the memory of the first occupant of the little cemetery, is still almost intact, and its quaint inscription reads as follows: —

Here lies ye Body
of Mr Hezekiah
Peck, who Depart
ed this Life August
Ye 9th 1723 in ye 62d
Year of his age.

Two more of this same family were found whose stones were still undestroyed: —

Here lies ye Body
of Mrs. Deborah
Peck, Relict of
Mr Hezekiah
Peck, Decd
March ye 5th 1736
in ye 72d year
of her Age.

In Memory of Mr.
Hezekiah Peck
Decd (date not legible)
1753 in — 58th Year
of his Age.

Blessed are the Dead
that die in the Lord.

On still another of this name could be traced only the name, Mr. John Peck, and the single date, 1730.

On two of these black or dark-gray stones near the top is cut a cherub's face with outspread wings on either side. One of these bears the name of T. W. Richardson and the date 1749; the other, the inscription which follows: —

In memory of Mrs.
Lydia ye Wife of
Mr. Josiah Cooper,
Who Dec^{ed} Octo^{r}
Ye 3^{1t} 1739,
Aged 38 years.

Another stone is thus inscribed: —

1742
Here lyeth the body of
Fitz Tolman, Dyd
Sep^{r} 14, 1727.

The first date must probably indicate the year in which the stone was erected. One inscription was found entirely illegible, with the exception of the name, which was Wellman; and of another only

1731 in 44
Year of his age

remained to be seen.

There is a group of stones belonging to various members of an Atwell family. Upon the largest of these, that erected to the father of the family, a handsome coat-of-arms is cut. This consists of a crown with a rampant unicorn on either side, but no motto could be found. The stone is thus inscribed: —

Sacred
To the memory of
Mr. Richard
Atwell.
He died January 26
A.D. 1767
In the 63^{d} year
Of his Age.
Amos Atwell of Providence,
his son,
From sentiments of
Filial Duty, erected this
Monument.

On another of this group was deciphered: —

Sarah Atwell, his daughter
Nov. 16, 1747, in the
20th year of her age.

On another: "—— Atwell a son Dec. 29, 1739"; and on still another: "Mary Atwell, 1755"; all else was illegible.

The most curious epitaph, still to be seen here, is that on a stone raised to the memory of Mr. John Buckle; but no dates are traceable. The epitaph reads: —

Death's steps are swift,
Yet no noise it makes,
His hand unseen
Yet most surely takes.

There was once a stone here whose inscription stated of the man lying beneath that "He died while eating his supper." It has now entirely disappeared, nor, so far as the writer knows, has tradition preserved any further facts with regard to this unfortunate being. Such a statement as the one made, without any explanations, is rather unsatisfactory and gives rise to unpleasant conjecture. Out of consideration for the feelings of those who might read this inscription or as a necessary warning, the friends of that man ought to have told posterity whether or not it was the supper that killed him.[1] There are no signs of mounds, even where headstones are still standing, and no idea can be formed by an examination of the ground as to the number of burials made here, but someone has said: "The hill used to be covered with graves." Now huckleberry bushes and the coarse growths of neglected fields cover the place, and if anything is ever to be done in the way of restoration and preservation it must be done soon, or it will be forever too late. It will not be long before the last remaining vestiges which point to this as a spot once set apart and made sacred to the memories of the dead will have passed away, and then tradition even will have little thought to bestow upon it. The coming generation will know nothing and care nothing for a group of decaying trees on a bit of moss-grown ground.

There has been some talk among the proprietors of Woodlawn Cemetery about obtaining this ground with a view to restoring and caring for it properly. It is a pretty spot, this little hillock, with its still beautiful trees on the banks of the winding river, and if these proprietors could become its owners it would make a most attractive addition to the already attractive modern cemetery beside it. It is to be devoutly hoped that the right kind of efforts in this direction will be made and that the commendable plan of rescuing this very ancient burial place, one of the oldest in town, from complete annihilation will be speedily accomplished.

OLD KIRK YARD.

Up to 1744 the greater portion of the burials from the east part of the town were made in the "Old North Burying Ground," or "Hatch's," but in October of that year it was voted by the people of the Second Precinct

[1] It has been ascertained that his name was Atwell, but nothing further seems to be known.

to have a place for this purpose in their own vicinity. On October 16 it was "Voted to have a burying place in the meeting-house lot, and that it should be at the northwesterly corner of said lot." This spot then comprised about half an acre, but afterwards it became necessary to add to it considerably more than an acre, and both together constituted the Old Kirk Yard. At two different times this sacred precinct has been entered and despoiled by the desecrating hands of railroad corporations, who demanded a portion of the tract for their uses, and therefore many of the dead had to be moved from their original resting-places beneath the sod.

"In June 1831, an Act was passed establishing the Boston and Providence Rail Road Corporation, with the usual powers and privileges," and under this act the corporation claimed the right to construct the road through this place, "notwithstanding the statute for the protection of the Sepulchres of the Dead." Their decision was that the line of the road must be *straight*,[1] as far as possible, and finding that this decision would cause the road to be laid through the burying ground the entire community of East Attleborough was roused to a high pitch of excitement and alarm, and the opposition to the proposed measure was decided and outspoken.

After considerable delay and various remonstrances and proceedings on the part of the proprietors,[2] the corporation proceeded, however, on the last Monday in June (probably in 1834) "to construct the road through the Burying Ground, and to remove the remains of the Dead, by a sort of *forced consent* of the relatives." They had indeed given notice "that, unless the kindred would *consent* to the removal of their dead, they should pull up the grave-stones and construct the road over the graves!" "This," says one, "was freedom of choice with a vengeance!"

The line of the road passed obliquely through the ground, cutting it into two irregular and unequal parts. In the course of the excavations (about 30 feet in width) about 150 bodies, or their remains, were removed, or rather *attempted* to be removed, for many of them were so much decayed that nothing but a few bones could be found. Such a removal is a mere mockery. And thus, says the author, this outrage has been committed, in contempt of the authority of the selectmen, in defiance of public opinion, and in violation, as we believe, of the laws of the land.

Has it come to this? Is there no spot in this wide world where the bones of the dead can rest in peace? Can they spare us no space of earth which shall be privileged from intrusion; where we can feel an *assurance* that the hand of violence or cupidity shall not disturb the ashes of our kindred? Will it be permitted, in a community of humane feelings, that a body of men, strangers to the people in the vicinity, and having no interest or sympathy with them,

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[1] In the early days of railroad construction there were certain points on which engineers differed widely, notably that one of laying straight or curved lines of road. Some favored the former way and cutting through all obstacles, and some the latter, avoiding obstacles by going around them. The former was the English method and seems to have been the one which found favor with the corporation in question.

[2] The parish owned this land and on application laid out lots in it to people, giving them not the land but the right of burial in it. Those especially in whom such rights had been vested might naturally be termed the proprietors, or equally all the citizens of the parish might be so termed. Records of this matter are on the parish books.

may trample with impunity on the graves of our fathers? and all this, to gratify the pride or caprice, and promote the interest of a wealthy corporation! The first rail-road in Massachusetts has its foundation on the ashes of the dead!

This is not the worst. A few of our neighbors have been concerned in the transaction. This was the "unkindest cut of all." Will it be believed by succeeding generations, that men (hitherto regarded as men of feeling) could be found in this town, who, from selfish or worse motives, were willing to lend their influence and combine with a *foreign* corporation to disturb the repose of the grave? Yet such is the fact!

The above quotations are from a pamphlet printed in 1834, containing "Remarks" on this matter, quotations from an address by the Hon. Judge Story, delivered at the consecration of Mount Auburn Cemetery, the public actions of the parish and town, the laws of the State with regard to the protection of burying grounds, and finally "Remarks on Corporate Powers," arranged "By a Freeman [1] of Massachusetts." Those actions of our citizens are given at length not only because the matter of which they treat was of great importance to the town, — beyond its deep and personal interest to many members of a single community, — but because subsequent events have proved that the citizens were wholly right in the position they then assumed, and the railroad company wholly wrong. No one will be inclined to deny the fact that almost incalculable benefits have, as a matter of course, accrued to the town from the passage of this railroad through it; but the particular route decided on has given rise to very much inconvenience and annoyance, to the eastern portion especially, to many controversies between the town and the corporation, to great expense, to a second desecration of the burying-ground, and even to loss of life; most, if not all of which, might have been avoided, and the benefits to the town have in some ways increased. In view of these things the company many years ago acknowledged that their early procedures were unnecessary and that it would have been better for the road had another route through the town, which was proposed, been accepted.

A parish meeting was held in September, 1833, and a committee of the seven following gentlemen was chosen to take what measures they could in behalf of the parish against the then contemplated innovation: John Daggett, Jonathan Bliss, Willard Blackinton, Abiathar Richardson, Jesse Carpenter, Harvey Claflin, and Daniel Carpenter. The chairman of this committee was the "Freeman" above referred to. We give his report of the proceedings of the committee and the actions of the citizens as found in the pamphlet mentioned: —

The following documents, and the principles on which we opposed the measure, are here embodied in a more permanent form than that in which they now exist, not only for the benefit of those who have an interest in the subject and have not had an opportunity of examining them, but that we may hereby make a *Public Protest* against the claim of the Corporation; and that this case may never be drawn into a *precedent* to justify future aggressions of

[1] The author.

the kind, as many are inclined to justify the *abuse* of power by its *use*. The question ought to have been legally settled, that the humanity of the law might have been vindicated. Measures were in progress to bring the case to a judicial determination, — which would have been done but for a few unexpected obstacles in the way. The ablest legal counsel had been consulted on the subject, whose opinion was adverse to the right of the claimants.[1] The fact, therefore, that the case was not contested, is no evidence of our acquiescence in their right to do what they did. It is time for public attention to be called to the subject, that the question, who are the proprietors (in many cases) of Burying grounds, and the rights of the public therein, may be determined; and also, how far protection, by law, is designed to be extended to the dead in their graves.

The following Remonstrance was sent to the Engineer and Agent by the Parish committee.

At a meeting of the Proprietors of the Burying Ground in East Attleborough, Sept. 25th 1833, the following Resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to attend to the interests of the Proprietors of the Burying Ground, so far as those interests may be affected by the contemplated route of the Boston and Providence Rail Road.

Resolved, That the Proprietors of the Grave-Yard, regard the contemplated removal of their dead with feelings of deep sensibility, and earnestly desire their committee to use their utmost endeavors to prevent, if possible, such a violation of the Sanctuary of the grave.

In accordance with the above Resolutions, the committee deem it needless to add much to what has been already said, in regard to the painful feelings, which such an event, as the removal of the dead from the present Burying Ground, must inevitably produce in the bosoms of surviving friends. Burial places have been regarded by all nations and in all ages as *sanctuaries*, as spots privileged from the intrusion of the business-concerns of life, and consecrated to the undisturbed repose of the dead. Such places possess, in the view of even the most barbarous nations, a sort of religious sacredness; and no considerations, short of absolute necessity, should induce the living to violate the sanctity of the grave. It is one of the holiest feelings of our nature, which prompts us to reverence the places where the ashes of our kindred rest; and such a feeling is entitled to respect, and should never be lightly regarded.

No pecuniary damages can ever compensate for that injury to feeling, which the promiscuous disinterment of the remains of several generations, and thus bringing them to the view of their surviving kindred, must necessarily create. Such a scene can but shock the common feelings of humanity, and must be felt as sacrilegious. In other cases, private property may be taken and an equivalent given. But who can give an equivalent for that wounded sensibility which the forced removal of the dead, under such circumstances, must occasion?

The committee would, therefore, in behalf of the Proprietors, most earnestly request those who have the selection of the route for the Rail Road, to spare, if possible, the violation of the sanctuaries of the dead, which the location of the road over our Burying Ground must necessarily produce. Even though the Corporation may have the *legal power* thus to locate the road, yet, we hope, that power will be exercised with a due regard to the feelings and interests of the community.

Very respectfully Yours,

Attleborough Sept. 28th 1833 JOHN DAGGETT, Chairman.

The Proprietors, perceiving that the Corporation still persisted in their right, deemed it expedient to make the grievance known to the Legislature, with the hope, if not of thus obtaining redress in their case, at least of procuring some positive enactment or other legal provision for the prevention of such injuries in future. For this purpose, they presented to the Legislature the following

PETITION.

To the Hon. the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

The Petition of us, the subscribers, interested in the Burying Ground in East Attleborough, respectfully represents:

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[1] "The haste, with which they proceeded in the construction of the road after they had ascertained this fact, is pretty good evidence that they themselves had some doubts about their right."

That by authority or under color of an Act of the Legislature, entitled, an "Act to Incorporate the Boston and Providence Rail Road Corporation" passed the 22d day of June A.D. 1831, the said Corporation, by their Agents, have located their Rail Road through the centre of the Burying Ground aforesaid, to the great damage and injury of your Petitioners; that this Burying Ground was laid out in the year 1744, and has ever since been occupied for the purpose of burying the dead, and now contains, by estimation, from ten to twelve hundred graves; that the said location (if persisted in) will cause the removal of the greatest proportion of the remains of the bodies in said ground, and will leave the remainder in an indecent and unbecoming condition. And, therefore, your Petitioners pray this Honorable Court to interpose their authority in our behalf, and prevent this great injury to our interests and feelings.

We respectfully represent, that, in our opinion, it is wholly unnecessary to locate said road in that direction; that from the nature of the ground in the vicinity, which is a level plain of great extent, this graveyard might be avoided without any material injury to the use and improvement of said road; that a slight curve in the line of the road, which, in practice, would amount to no perceptible variation, would entirely clear this Burying Ground, and thus render it unnecessary to disturb the remains of the dead: That the said Act provides, that the said Corporation shall take no ground or materials for the use of said road, without paying a full compensation therefor; but that, from the nature of the case, the damages to which we are entitled are no adequate compensation for the injury caused; the mere cost of the ground and of the removal of the dead, is no equivalent for disturbed peace and wounded sensibility. Such an injury cannot be measured by any pecuniary standard. Burial places have been regarded by all nations, and in all ages, as consecrated ground; and all needless exposure or disturbance of them, is opposed to the universal sentiment of mankind, and is a violation of the most sacred feelings of the heart. Such feelings are entitled to respect, and to the protection of the laws. By a recent Act, the Legislature, guided by a due regard for the tender associations connected with the remains of our kindred, have seen fit to impose heavy penalties upon any who should presume to violate the sanctuary of the grave; and have thereby expressed the feelings which the people of this Commonwealth entertain for the protection of the cemeteries of the dead. We have a right to expect that the feelings which dictated that Act, will be extended to us in this case. That a right thus to disturb the sacred repose of the grave, on the part of said Corporation, could not have been contemplated by the Legislature, at the time of passing said Act of Incorporation; and the exercising of such a power under that Act, is, therefore, contrary to the true intent of the Legislature, and to the interests and good feelings of the people of this Commonwealth. We claim protection in the case as a right guaranteed to us by the humane principles of our revered Constitution. We, therefore, most earnestly and solemnly appeal to an enlightened and humane Legislature, actuated by a due regard for the feelings and peace of the community, to grant us relief from this grievance, in such a manner and by such means as they in their wisdom shall deem right and proper.

And your Petitioners further pray this Honorable Court, that they would pass some Act, for the better preservation of burial places, especially against future grants of this kind; and that they would establish some impartial tribunal, who shall give a hearing to both parties in such cases, to the end that, whenever hereafter any individual or corporation shall, in the location of a road or canal, come in contact with a burying ground, the said tribunal shall determine, on full and fair examination, whether the exigencies of the case require that the same or any part thereof should be removed. This we ask on the principle that, in a case which so deeply affects the feelings and interest of the people, as the removal of the dead from their graves, it ought not to be left to the sole discretion of an interested individual, or a corporation, naturally governed by self-interest alone, to judge of its necessity — that it is not just for *them* to determine whether the public good demands such a sacrifice. We respectfully ask, that all future grants of this kind may be made subject to such a limitation. We earnestly protest against the granting, in future, of the unqualified powers and privileges (of which we have complained) to any corporation or body of men in this Commonwealth. And we, therefore, humbly pray this Honorable Court, to adopt some measure affording a more adequate protection to Burying Grounds. And as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

Signed JOHN DAGGETT, and 112 others.

Attleborough, January 30th, 1834.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEB. 6, 1834.

So much of this Petition as relates to the grievance complained of, is referred to the Committee on Rail Ways and Canals.

Sent up for concurrence.

L. S. CUSHING, Clerk.

IN SENATE, February 7, 1834.

Concurred, and ordered to be printed.

CHARLES CALHOUN, Clerk.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Feb. 6, 1834.

So much of the above Petition as relates to the Preservation of Burying Grounds, is committed to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Attest, L. S. CUSHING, Clerk.

In accordance with the prayer of this Petition, the Judiciary committee (of which Theron Metcalf, Esq. of Dedham, was chairman, one of the most learned jurists in this state) very promptly reported a Bill, which passed (we believe, without the least objection) into a law. The feeling manifested on the subject was highly creditable to the member who drafted it.

The Railway Committee, to whom the former part of the petition was referred, reported unfavorably to the prayer of the Petitioners, — on what grounds we have no means of knowing, as they saw fit to give no reasons for their report. It may be conjectured, however, that it was on the ground that the grant was in the nature of a *contract*, and that, therefore, the Legislature had no right to interfere. That it was so far in the nature of a contract as to preclude them from interposing their authority to prevent the injury contemplated, may, at least, admit of a *doubt*. We presume, however, that the committee did what they thought was their duty. We have, therefore, no better remedy than to acquiesce in the decision, right or wrong.

That the Directors of the Rail Road might have a "certain knowledge" of public opinion in the town, the following Resolutions were sent to them.

At a town meeting held April 7th, 1834, the following resolutions[1] were adopted.

Resolved, That the disturbance of the Burying Ground in East Attleborough is wholly unnecessary, and that it was the duty of the Rail Road Corporation so to have located the road as to avoid said ground, which might have been done without any material injury to the use and improvement of said road.

Resolved, That the removal of the dead from the places where they have been deposited, without the consent and contrary to the wishes of surviving kindred and friends, (unless *public* necessity absolutely require it,) is a violation of those feelings which ought to be held sacred by the laws and the authorities of the land.

Resolved, That the location of the Rail Road through the Burying Ground aforesaid, under the circumstances of the case, is a contempt of public opinion and an outrage upon public feeling, and deserves the indignant reprobation of the community.

Resolved, That having solemnly appealed, but in vain, to the humanity and justice of the Legislature, for protection, it is the duty of all interested in the case to use all legal and constitutional means in their power to procure relief and prevent this contemplated injury to their rights.

Resolved, That the granting, by the Legislature, of such undefined powers and privileges to any person or corporation, as are given in the charter of said Rail Road Company, (and without first requiring a specific location of the intended route,) is an unjustifiable disregard of private property, and a violation of the rights intended to be secured by the Constitution to the people of this Commonwealth.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to transmit a copy of the above Resolutions to each of the Directors of the Boston and Providence Rail Road Corporation, with a request that they would so far change the location of said road as to avoid the Burying Ground in East Attleborough.

Attleborough, April 7th, 1834.

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[1] There were seven resolutions presented to the town, but the first, which was couched in rather scathing terms, was not adopted.

At the last meeting of the Proprietors, (which was very fully attended,) held a few weeks previous to the commencement of the work, the following Resolution was passed. They were resolved, that, if the act should be done, the responsibility and odium of it should rest on those by whom it was done; and would do nothing which might be construed into acquiescence or consent, that they might thus avoid the appearance of being made seeming partakers in the outrage.

Resolved, That the Proprietors of the Burying Ground are still opposed to the passage of the Rail Road over the same; that they will never encourage or consent to it, and that they deny the right of the Corporation to construct said road over said ground, or to disturb or injure the remains of the dead therein deposited.

As has been seen, all efforts in opposition to the corporation were unavailing; the road was laid through the burial ground and a third of an acre filled full of graves condemned. It was necessary to remove not only the bodies buried in the direct line of the road, but those in that portion of the yard east of it, for, as may readily be seen, it would be entirely inappropriate to have two distinct burial plots as small as these so near each other. One or two families utterly refused to allow their dead to be removed, and many will recall the little group of slate headstones which long remained on the common. It is said that the railroad company bought a piece of land somewhere on the other side of the original lot, which they gave to the parish to add to the kirkyard, and this might have been done to compensate the parish for the necessary abandonment of the extreme eastern portion and to make room for the bodies removed therefrom. There is every reason to suppose that money compensations were liberal and as satisfactory as any such remunerations could be made, but no amount of money or gifts can compensate for the real damages in such cases.

In 1870, when the charter for the Attleborough Branch Railroad was obtained, more land was demanded for its purposes near the depot. Land for a third track was no doubt necessary, but all citizens could not understand why but one route was possible or available. The company, however, decided that the new line *must* join the old one in the immediate vicinity of the Old Kirk Yard, and while in all probability this *must*, translated, would have meant simply desire or convenience, as before, the corporation against individuals unjustly won the day, and in spite of great opposition another work of desecration took place in this unhappy spot. At this time fully a hundred bodies were removed, or the remains of bodies, for many had almost crumbled to dust, and these fragments were placed some in Mount Hope and some in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Since that time a petition has been circulated and signed by a large number of people and presented to the Legislature. "Its reception was instrumental in procuring the passage of laws, which will forever remove the possibility of a like desecration of sacred ground." It is to be devoutly hoped that no body of legislators will ever be assembled in our State capable of contemplating even for a moment the repeal of any such laws as these.

There are it is thought about eight hundred bodies in the Old Kirk Yard, and occasional interments still continue to be made there, but there are very

few if any unoccupied lots, and only a few available spaces for graves remain. "For more than one hundred and forty years it has received its silent increase, and witnessed the laying away of many great and good men." The grave of Rev. Peter Thacher, that "highly respected and useful man," is here. He requested that he might be buried near the old church where he preached so long, and when it became necessary to change his resting-place a similar spot by the new church was chosen by his descendants, and it seems as if his godly spirit were hovering near his successors in the pulpit of that people to whom he so long ministered, preaching the gospel with true Christian earnestness and fidelity. Rev. Nathan Holman, pastor for more than a score of years, lies in another portion of the yard; and Colonel John Daggett, the Revolutionary hero, William Bolkcom, Hezekiah Peck, and many others of prominence in both earlier and later days are placed here. Here also is the grave and the monument of Abiathar A. Richardson, the donor of the school fund; and various soldiers of our own and the earlier wars find here their last camping ground. Among these are Oscar B. Cummings, Sergeant Abraham Savery, and Lieutenant Darius N. Cole, who was killed at Spottsylvania, and whose headstone bears the inscription, "He died for his country"; and there are several others who are remembered with the offerings of Memorial Day. One of the veterans of the Revolution who were buried here was Captain Jabez Ellis, who died November 14, 1808, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. His name will be familiar to all who may read this book, for he did his town good service in many ways during many years. He was allowed to rest in peace only about sixty years, for his grave was disturbed by the Branch Road and his remains, with those of about eighty others, were taken to Mount Hope Cemetery. The most ancient date found on any tombstone now in the yard is for 1736 on that of a member of the Tyler family, an ancestor of Professor Tyler, of Amherst College. This person must have been first buried elsewhere — perhaps in some family burial-ground afterwards deserted — as the year of his death antedates by several years the laying out of the ground. There were no doubt many quaint and curious epitaphs on the earlier stones placed here, since their inscription was an almost universal fashion of those times, but none of these have been preserved by the author.

Two or three epitaphs from stones in this yard have been found and are here given.[1]

In memory of Mr.
John Sweet, Jun., who
died April ye 7th, 1762,
Aged 38 years and 4 months.

My loving friends as you pass by
On my Cold Grave but cast Your Eye;

[1] Taken from a newspaper publication on this town's history prepared for the centenial celebration in Harford, Penn.

Your sun like mine may set at Noon,
Your soul be called for very soon;
In this Dark place You'll quickly be,
Prepare for Death and follow me.

The stone marking Rev. Peter Thacher's grave is 8 feet 4 inches high and 2 feet wide. Old fashioned carving under which we read: "In memory of the Rev. Peter Thacher, M.A., the late Faithful and beloved Pastor of the 2'nd Chh. of Christ in Attleborough; he was born Jan'ry 25th, 1716; Ordained Nov'br 30th, 1748; Died Sept'br 13th, 1785; in the Seventieth year of his age, and 43d of his Ministry."

Whom Papist with not Superstitious fire
Would dare to adore we justly may admire.

In memory of
Ebenezer Tyler,
Esquire,
A native of this town.
A valuable citizen, and for the
three years previous
to his removal to Pawtucket
a representative in the State
Legislature.
He was the son of John and Anna,
and Grandson
of Ebenezer and Catharine Tyler,
who are buried on his right.
He died
at his seat in Pawtucket,
Oct. 18, 1827,
Aged 67 years.

Yes, all must yield to death's remorseless rage,
Creation's brow shall wrinkle up with age,
Time shall remove the keystone of the sky,
Heaven's roof shall fall and all but virtue die.

This yard has been almost entirely neglected for many years, and very little has ever been done apparently in the way of caring for it. Within a few years, however, the matter has been placed in the hands of a committee, and something in the direction of improvement has been attempted. Those who have friends buried here should be interested every one, and it is to be hoped that the parish will do its share of such a work and "make the Old Kirk Yard a fitting representative of the public spirit, and an honorable evidence of the care and respect of the town for its dead." The work of improvement and embellishment would be the more obligatory should a new church edifice be erected elsewhere, and considerable discussion resulting in some steps in that direction has taken place. In that event, we hope no one would for a moment contemplate or suggest a general removal of the dead. For once let the progress which means innovation and disturbance stay her hand; let this spot be improved to the utmost, but not diverted to other uses. Made cheerful and attractive as a cemetery, it would greatly enhance the centre of its village. Whether the church goes or stays, let this portion of the "meeting-

house lot" be beautified, as another part has been, and let it remain here in the midst of the bustle and stir of busy, active life, the possession of the undisturbed dead forever. It will do the living no harm to have continually before their eyes something which shall recall memories of those who are gone.[1]

Something over a hundred years ago, when there were only a few houses in the vicinity of the Falls, "William Stanley, a man of public spirit and foresight, set apart a piece of land for a burying ground for himself and neighbors." Judging rightly that the water power there would eventually cause a thriving village to be built up, "he devoted an acre and a quarter of his farm to this public purpose." There was no public record of the date of this transaction kept, if any was made; but the earliest stone, placed above an infant daughter of Enoch and Mindwell Robinson, bears date 1773, so it could not have been, probably, far from that time when the yard was first opened. The Robinson family appear thus to have been the earliest occupants, and several different branches are represented. In one portion of the ground thirteen are buried in a row; and in 1839 two members of the family built a large tomb. Some of the stones of this family date back to 1776, 1773, and 1788; and that erected to Noah Robinson, who died in the latter year, has the same epitaph as that upon a stone in the old Woodcock ground: —

Jesus, his sacrifice and death,
Shall be my finery and wedding dress.

Deacon Enoch Robinson, who died in 1798, has the following epitaph: —

'Tis I that speak although I'm dead,
'Twas sovereign God made this my bed,
All that I have to say to thee
Prepare for death and follow me.

Over some of the inscriptions on tombstones here skulls and cross-bones are carved, "while round faced cherubs and the melancholy cypress urn" are frequently to be found. Some members of the numerous Daggett family are buried here. Samuel B. Parris, M.D., the remarkably promising young man, was laid here, but subsequently was removed from town; Deacon Jonathan Stanley, and Dr. Thomas Stanley, the son of the donor of the ground, Lieutenant Amos Stanley and Anna his wife, and many others well known as "honorable men and strong hearted women."

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[1] This lot is now the property of the Second Congregational Church. Why could not that body, in connection with the relatives, friends, and descendants of those who are buried here, see that this matter is accomplished during this anniversary year? What more fitting permanent memorial could there be to this portion of our early dead? How could we better celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of our town and the one hundred and fiftieth — in the same month — anniversary of the setting apart of this spot as a place sacred to the dead? Let us show that we remember and honor these godly fathers and mothers by making this little plot of earth, which surely they have a right to claim, worthy of them and of ourselves.

Elizabeth, wife of John Carpenter, has the following epitaph: —

Farewell, my dear husband, she cries,
Now from thy kind bosom I leap,
With Jesus my Bridegroom to be,
My flesh in the tomb for to sleep.

That of Lydia, the wife of James Pullen, is: —

Pray stop and read as you pass by,
Your parents here together ly.

Many of the inscriptions here show that the people whom they commemorate lived to a very advanced age.

Very nearly all of the early settlers at the Falls were interred here, and their followers continued to be largely up to the time of the opening of Mount Hope Cemetery. Burials are even now made here, but at very infrequent intervals. It is upon the northern portion of this ground that the Central Congregational Church edifice has been erected. The selection of this site necessitated the removal of some forty or fifty bodies, which was done with the consent of a majority of the persons directly concerned, but with the decided disapproval of some of these, who claimed that another equally desirable site might have been chosen and this "disturbance of the dead" avoided. While it was unfortunate on this account that some other place could not have been agreed upon, the object for which the remains were removed was one far less harrowing to even the most sensitive feelings than that for which so many were removed elsewhere in town; and if this long-moldering human dust could have formed itself anew into a living reality, it might have voiced a glad willingness to be thus disturbed and borne to another resting-place if by that means a way was to be made for the continued preaching of God's Word.

About the time of the Revolutionary War, Captain Joel Robinson gave about two acres of land to be used as a burial place. It lies on the west side of the road from Dodgeville to Hebronville, between the one which runs past the old Tiffany place to County Street and the one over Thurber's crossing by the camp ground to Briggsville. To whom precisely this lot was given does not transpire, but presumably it was set apart for the use of the people of that vicinity as a public cemetery. Tradition says that the donor had some quarrel with those to whom he had tendered the gift, and that he never gave a deed of it. That fact made no difference in its use for the purpose designated, however, and the donor himself is buried there, his gravestone being in an excellent state of preservation. Subsequently Dr. Seba Carpenter bought about half an acre of land and gave it to the yard, reserving a right to be buried in the front part, but this right must have been forgotten or wittingly disregarded, for he and his family are buried a considerable

distance back from the street. At a much more recent date Cyrus Webber and Joab French made a purchase of land, which they also gave to the cemetery, which, including all additions, comprises about four acres. There seems to have been no attempt to lay out the old portion with any regularity, for the graves are placed without much regard to straight lines or true angles. Much of this disorderly appearance is no doubt due to the changes time unhindered would inevitably make, for there is no evidence of unusual neglect or wanton carelessness. This part is public property, "any one can bury in it," but the new portions are laid out into lots to be disposed of in the usual manner, and show marks of care and attention.

The first person buried here was Desire Fuller, who died in 1775, and Mr. Zachariah Carpenter's stone bears the same date. The oldest stones are of black slate, many moss-grown and some sunk nearly half their original height into the ground. Some of the inscriptions are almost entirely illegible and others are traced with considerable difficulty. A large number of lengthy epitaphs are to be found here and a few of them have been copied and will be given with some names and dates from other stones. Captain Joshua Tiffany and his wife are buried here; Captain Ebenezer Tiffany, who died in 1807 in the seventy-fourth year of his age; his wife, Mrs. Molly, who died in 1825 in the eighty-seventh year of her age; and a Miss Tenty Tiffany, who died in 1789. One finds the name of Bates, Starkey, Lincoln, and again and again Fuller. Dr. Seba Carpenter died March 12, 1854, at the age of seventy-one; and Remember, his wife, and several children are buried near him. On two stones of the Carpenter family is the curious name of Lephe, one the wife of Captain Jon. Carpenter, in whose grave was buried an infant child. There are many Wilmarths buried here, and an enclosed lot on the highest ground in the yard, containing a monument, belongs to a family of that name. Others are Babcock, Bourn, Kirkpatrick, Hutchins, Freeman, Martin, Read, Atherton, Lothrop, — one named Libaus, — Bucklin, Robinson, Allen, Mott, Tiffany, Thurber, — one named Zerviah, — etc. In the new part are several handsome stones and monuments, bearing the same familiar names, many of them, seen in the old part.

Following are the few inscriptions collected: —

In memory of
Mr.
James Tiffany,
who died Oct.
1776
Aged 79 years.

Death 'tis a debt to Nature Due,
Which I have paid and so must you.

In memory of Mr.
Jeduthen Fuller,
who died Novembr
15th 1779 aged

79 years 6 mon^{s}
& 23 Days.

Hark from the tombs a doleful sound,
My ears attend the cry,
Ye living men come view the ground,
Where you must shortly lie.

Given Gratis by Abiel Fuller.

Mr. Ebenezer Wilmarth
died
Jan. 24, 1828
in his 82th year.
A Revolutionary pensioner.

Mrs. Ama Claflin
died in 1833 aged 51.

No more the weary pilgrim mourns,
No more affliction wrings her heart,
Th' unfetter'd soul to God returns,
Forever she and anguish part.

Candace Dexter died in 1838 in the 28th year of her age.

Farewell my dear a short farewell,
For I on earth a while must dwell,
And drop a tear of sorrow.
But not without hope's cheering ray,
That she who fades on earth today,
May bloom in Heaven tomorrow.

In memory
of
Mrs. Anna Read
wife of
Mr. Nathaniel Read.
She died Sept. 1
1840
aged 86 years.

Oh! ever honor'd ever dear adieu,
How many tender names are lost in you.
Keep safe O, tomb! thy precious sacred trust,
Till life, divine, wakes her sleeping dust.

In memory of
Mr.
Nathaniel Read,
who died Dec. 16,
1875
in the 76th year
of his age.

What need the pen rehearse a life well spent.
A man's good deeds is his best monument.

Maria
wife of
John Dyett Peacock,
& daughter of
John Bruster,

born at Helmsworth
Yorkshire, Co. Eng.
died April 10, 1859
Aged 58 years.

As I pass by with grief I see
My only friend was taken from me.
Tho' taken by him who has a right
To call from me when he saw fit.

William J. Morgain.
Died
Oct. 17, 1872
In the 61st year
Of his age.

Our loss is great, it gives us pain,
We ne'r shall find his like again.

Within a few years an association has been formed, which has this cemetery in charge. Mr. Joseph G. Thurber is the president of this association. The ground is called "The Dodgeville Burying Ground."

Towards the middle of this century it became unmistakably evident that more burial space was required, the increasing population of North Attleborough rendering such space especially necessary in that vicinity. A public meeting was held, and plans proposed and arranged. Stock was issued and at once subscribed for by about thirty persons. In 1849 these incorporators, who had organized their association under provisions of statute, purchased seven acres of land of Benjamin Freeman and later by purchases from other persons increased the amount of land to about ten acres. These grounds are in the Falls village on the road leading over Mount Hope hill, from which no doubt it derived its name.

The consecration of Mount Hope Cemetery took place July 2, 1850. The services were participated in by several clergymen, and the following poem written for the occasion by Mrs. C. M. Jackson (then Miss Fuller) was sung: —

Here, in thine ancient temple, Lord,
Where prayer was *earliest* made to thee,
Thy presence waiting children crave
And ask for each a blessing free.

We come as did thy sons of old,
This spot to mark as holy ground;
We consecrate it Lord, to thee, —
Here may thy spirit e'er be found.

May no rude feet profane this place,
Where rest in peace the sleeping dead, —
No thoughtless merriment intrude
Upon their silent, dreamless bed.

And when our tears bedew the graves
Of those who share our earthly love,
May faith's uplifted finger say,
They are not here — they 're gone above.

Here may we never doubt or fear,
  But humbly trust parental love,
And ever cheerfully resign
  Those, whom our Father calls above.

Here may the angel Hope arise,
  With peace, for souls by *sorrow* riven,
And show them thro' *this* gate there lies
  The nearest, easiest path to Heaven.

The address prepared by the Rev. J. M. B. Bailey, pastor of the First Church, at the request of the proprietors of the cemetery, was read at the dedication by his friend, the author of this book, because he was at the time too much prostrated by feeble health to be able to deliver it. A few extracts are made in memory of the writer, whom numbers in town must still hold in affectionate remembrance.

This is an occasion that excites our emotions. Though the common world be near us, we are secluded. We feel that we have come to this spot, as to one which does not belong to the common acres of the globe. These are no longer common trees, nor this turf the public soil. We are on selected territory, and the rural scenery about us is the drapery of our enclosure, which divides us off from the lawns and fields adjacent. But our isolation does not account for the emotions that thrill our souls. We are in the presence chambers of the Eternal. We are compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses. Departed saints seem to be gazing upon us, as we come here to this dividing line between two worlds, as we gather where the dead enter the vestibule of eternity.

Let all our arrangements have more reference to a resurrection, and the glory that follows, than to what is merely material and ephemeral. Let our selection of places where our friends shall slumber till they shall put on immortality, be made with reference to these solemn realities. Let us choose a place so far removed from the stir and bustle of active life, that the repose of the sleepers there shall not be broken in upon by the noise of business, by the careless tread of those who regard not private right, or the endearments of love. Let it be retired, yet the access easy. Let the spot be diversified with brook and pond and rushing stream, with plain and hillock, with gentle declivity and retiring vale, with sunshine and shade, with the natural forest and the cultivated grove. There let us set the leafy maple, the spreading elm, the towering oak, the modest beech, the native and the foreign evergreen. Make the passage ways open and broad, that no necessity may compel, or carelessness allow, the tombs of the dead to be desecrated or marred. Appropriate a spot for the stranger that dies among you, and let your liberal hospitality grant him a free and an honorable burial. Let not parsimony or speculation or covetousness have any share in the planning, the executing, the adorning or the disposing. Suffer nature to do all that it can; let taste and art bring their contributions and combine their beauties here. Let all its monuments be sacred, its paths, its avenues, its carriage ways. Let all within it, all beneath, all above, even to the stars that shine sweetly down upon it be sacred. Let them be forever hallowed; hallowed to repose, to silent converse with the departed dead. Let all who *alone* pass through these walks, let all who in social intercourse tread their way hither in twilight's gentle hour, or when the moon sheds down her mildest light through these overspreading trees upon the grass, beneath which loved ones lie sleeping; — let all who have been bereaved of partners, of son or daughter, of lover or friend, let them listen, let them receive those lessons that soften, calm and elevate. Let everything connected with, and belonging to, this most interesting place, its trees, its monuments, its grass, its foliage, its evergreens, point the visitor to the resurrection and the life to come. Let them point him to that world where there is no death, no mourning, no sin; where all is eternal freshness, eternal youth; where no destruction wasteth at noonday.

Standing here, I seem to see, coming from yonder cold gloomy vault a company of the dead who have left their burial, that they may here find a more befitting resting place. I see

following that company, at frequent intervals, one and another of those now living. Their silent tread, their bowed forms, their fallen heads and saddened countenances, all tell of the visitation, of bereavement, of sorrow and sadness. Twenty out of every thousand of this population will be interred before the end of this year. Soon the monument here will tell of death's doings with an emphasis and a cadence, that will surprise every visitor. Over whom of us will the first turfed roof be raised? Who can tell where the blow will first fall that will sever the golden chord? Who shall be first to bear hither the beloved wife or husband? What parent will first bring here the son of his dependence, or the daughter of his hope?

Come here to form a right estimate of time. Here is the goal of life. Here is the portal of eternity. Pause here, all ye who tread these walks, and consider what will be a hundred years hence. We often hear it uttered with seeming levity, "It will be all the same a hundred years hence." But with what a pace, and with what certainty, will not these years come to their termination. This day will draw to a close, and a number of such days will make a whole revolution of the seasons. Year follows year, and a number of years make up a century. These little intervals accumulate and fill up that mighty space, which appears to the fancy so big and so immeasurable. A hundred years will come, and see out the wreck of whole generations. Every living thing that now moves upon the face of the earth, will disappear from it. The infant, that now hangs on his mother's bosom, will live only in the remembrance of his grandchildren. The scene of life and intelligence now before me will be changed into the dark and loathsome forms of corruption. The people who now hear me will cease to be spoken of; they will perish from the face of the earth. Their flesh will be devoured by worms. The dark and creeping things that live in the holes of the earth will feed upon their bodies. Their coffins will have mouldered away, and their bones have been thrown up in the new-made grave, unless prevented by your wholesome and spacious provisions. And is this the consummation of all things? Is this the final end of man? Is there nothing beyond the grave to relieve the picture? nothing to chase away these dismal images? Must we sleep forever in the dust, and bid an eternal adieu to the light of heaven?

Come to this place, my friends, and learn to apportion your time wisely. Devote a proper share to learn how to die, then the agonies of your dying day will not be heightened by the agonies of despair. Come here and learn how to live.

So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon; but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

The first person buried here was Mr. Martin Whitney, in 1850, and now the silent inhabitants of this spot number many hundreds, among them many of the most distinguished citizens of the town. Hon. Elisha May is interred here and his gravestone bears the following epitaph: —

What though our inbred sins require
Our flesh to see the dust;
Yet as the Lord our Saviour rose
So all his followers must.

That of Ruth, his widow, is as follows: —

Tho' I lie buried deep in dust
My flesh shall be thy care;
These withered limbs with thee I trust
To raise them strong and fair.

Upon the stone erected to George Stanley are the following lines from Pope:

A wit's a feather, and a chief's a rod,
An honest man's the noblest work of God.

There are a number of beautiful monuments in this cemetery, bearing the names of prominent men and families. Among the handsomest are those of the Richards family, H. N. Daggett, Oscar M. Draper, and the Freeman brothers, while there are scores of others conspicuous for their beauty or appropriateness.

Within a few years four and a half acres of land have been added to the cemetery on the east side, and it now comprises from twelve to fifteen acres. Since it was first opened it has been handsomely enclosed and much improved, and the grounds are well graded and suitably divided into avenues and paths. The tract has many natural advantages; its surface is happily diversified and portions of it beautifully shaded and adorned by groves of our native forest trees. It is tastefully laid out, and so nature and art have combined harmoniously to make Mount Hope Cemetery the most attractive in town.

There are now two Roman Catholic cemeteries in town. For many years the people of that faith possessed no consecrated ground for this purpose, and all their dead were taken to Pawtucket for interment. About 1850 St. Mary's parish was organized and land for church purposes was purchased, but it was not until a number of years later that the people were able to purchase their first tract of land for burial purposes. This is at the Falls village, south and east of Mount Hope, and is called St. Mary's Cemetery. Already it has many occupants; monuments of various designs dot the surface here and there, and many uplifted crosses glisten and gleam in the sunlight over the rapidly increasing mounds. The greater portion of the burials from the parishes of St. Mary and St. John are made here.

The only other Roman Catholic burying ground in town is the cemetery connected with St. Stephen's Church in Dodgeville and called by the same name.

About twenty-five years ago the necessity for additional burial space in the east part of the town had become imperative, and in 1865 a cemetery association was formed. The first meeting of the association was held on the first of July of that year to take measures for organizing as a corporation, but that idea was abandoned. The number of charter members of the association was fifteen. Shares were issued, the par value of each being $25, and forty-three of these were taken by the original stockholders, who numbered twenty-three. The first officers elected were J. W. Capron, president, C. E. Hayward, vice-president, A. M. Everett, clerk, John Cooper, treasurer, and J. W. Capron, C. E. Hayward, and L. W. Barnes, trustees. The name selected was "The Woodlawn Cemetery Association." A constitution was

framed and adopted together with suitable by-laws on the fourteenth of July, 1865. This is a private association not incorporated by act of Legislature, and in 1887 the number of shares had increased to seventy-one.

Soon after the organization of the association about ten acres of land were purchased for a thousand dollars of Mr. Philip Brady. This tract lies in what has long been familiarly called Blackintonville and is bounded by Mr. Brady's lands, the Bungay River, and the former homestead lot of Mr. William Blackinton, now the property of Mr. Nerney. Some two or three years subsequent to the purchase substantial iron gates were erected at the entrance to the ground on North Main Street, and in 1887 a little more than two acres of land were purchased to enlarge the cemetery.

The site of Woodlawn is a cheerful and pretty one, as that of the grounds set apart for "cities of the dead" ought to be. The surface is broken, portions of it have trees, and the running river is a particularly attractive feature. Many of the lots are tastefully arranged and many beautiful stones and monuments have been erected to the honored dead lying beneath them. Here as in every similar spot one finds newly inscribed year by year the names of numbers of the best and most prominent men of the town, some having lived out long and useful lives, fully ripe for the sickle of God's reaper, but others, alas! cut down in the prime of lusty manhood just when their vigorous strength seemed most needed in the world's work; and here too one sees numbers of the waving flags which indicate the soldier's grave. Among the finest monuments are those of the Bliss, Carpenter, and Dean families, and those of Mr. Charles E. Hayward, William Wilmarth, and Everett Bliss. These are among the most conspicuous, but there are many others equally tasteful and appropriate.

The new cemeteries of the town present a most creditable appearance; if the old burying grounds could receive the attention they demand and deserve, such attention as is bestowed upon the new ones, there would be nothing left in this line to be desired.

About three quarters of a century ago a small parcel of land was set aside by Mr. Apollos Follett as a family burial ground. It lies on the road leading from Park Street to the Bearcroft Road, between his house — now occupied by his grandson, Walter H. Follett — and the residence of Mrs. Simpson Harvey. There are but seven gravestones in this little yard, all probably that have been placed, as only a few people have been buried there. They are of black slate and contain no epitaphs, only simple inscriptions, and no ornamentations with one exception, a weeping willow being pictured upon that of Mrs. Apollos Follett. The small footstones contain the initials of those beneath, and in some instances the year of their death. All the stones are in a row and near together, and are in memory of the persons whose names follow: —

Mr. Jonathan Follet, who died Dec. 7, 1819, in the 81st year of his age; Mrs. Mary, his wife, who died Dec. 30, 1829, in the 85th year of her age; Mr. Apollos Follett, (his son) who died July 4, 1855, in the 76th year of his age; Mrs. Cynthia, his wife, who died Aug. 9, 1844, in the 63d year of her age; Mr. Apollos Follett, Jr., who died Aug. 5, 1831, in the 24th year of his age; Ferdinand, another son, who died March 24, 1818, aged 10 months and 24 days, and Mary, who died Nov. 14, 1815, aged 4 years, 10 months and 14 days.

It was at the time of the last-named child's death that Mr. Follett made the yard. Another daughter, Cynthia, who married a Mr. Hunt, of Norton, was buried here with her infant child, but was subsequently removed to a yard in Norton by her husband. Still another daughter, a second Mary, who married William Rogers, is buried here; but no stones have ever been placed above their graves, which are fast becoming obliterated. An infant child of Mr. Simpson Harvey was temporarily buried in this place; but no other burials have been made so far as known. The stones are in a fair state of preservation, though somewhat moss-grown, but the ground is in a neglected condition, covered with brambles and tangled grass. The enclosing wall is yet intact but the gate is lacking and all together it is a rather forlorn-looking little spot.

There is another family burial ground not a great distance from the one just mentioned, on the road leading from the "Mugg district" to Briggsville. It is not more than eighteen or twenty feet square and is filled by the ten graves it contains. There are nine stones. These, with two exceptions, are erected to persons of the name of Thayer. The first interment was apparently in 1845, that of Mr. Abiathar Thayer, who died at the age of seventy-seven. His wife Elizabeth died in 1858 in her eighty-sixth year. Another Abiathar died in 1876, aged eighty. Phebe his wife, Ruel, Benjamin L., and Mrs. Joanna Thayer, Mason Harvey, who died in 1849, aged seventy-two, and a child of the name of Hewitt are the others to whom stones are erected. All these stones are of white marble, with the exception of that of Mr. Harvey, which is of black slate. Outside the enclosure there are two graves. One is that of James B. Hewitt; the other has no stone. Three scraggy old trees and a few tiny firs stand within the yard, but they detract very little from the forsaken appearance of the place, a lonesome spot on a lonely road.

Not far away is a similar spot enclosed by a substantial stone and iron fence and containing one grave with a marble headstone, that of Mr. Edwin S. Coombs. It lies on the crossroad from the one just mentioned to that passing the Follett yard, which it joins near the residence of the late Captain Edwin French. Mr. Coombs' place was the "old Codding farm," the home of Mr. Abiel Codding.

On the place of the late Dr. James M. Solomon, now occupied by his son, Herbert F. Solomon, there is a small plot of ground which he set apart about fifty years ago as a family burial-place. It contains but a few rods, two sides being surrounded by a stone wall, the other two by a solid iron fence, and the whole shaded by trees of a considerable growth, which he no doubt

planted himself. There seem to have been about twenty interments in the yard, all, with two or three exceptions, members of the family. A granite monument near the centre has the following names inscribed upon it: "Dr. James M. Solomon, Born Sept. 10, 1812, Died Nov. 22, 1889. Rebecca A. his wife, Born March 20, 1824, Died Nov. 22, 1886"; and beneath "Amy A.," a daughter. On another side are inscriptions to other children of Dr. Solomon: Cornelia A., James F., William D., Sarah M., John J., and William B., the two latter having the birth date only lettered, as they are still living. Headstones containing simply names are placed at the graves of several of these near the monument and to two additional ones, Laura A. and Loammi K., while one small stone is marked "The Children." There is a stone to "Almira L. wife of Henry McCarthy," a sister of Dr. Solomon, who died in 1852; one to John L., son of Henry and Almira McCarthy; and between these a small stone inscribed to some member of their family, a child probably, who died in 1846 and was the first person buried in the yard. A large stone marks the spot where Rebecca A. Chace, who "died in 1867 aged 74," was buried, and makes the fifteenth in the entire group besides the monument. In each of the corners farthest from the family and at the foot of the little mound where they lie, marked by rough black stones wholly unletttered, is a grave: the one to the east being that of a servant in the doctor's family who died many years ago, and the other that of some person unknown to the present members. One stone here contains the most remarkable dates of any in town, so remarkable as to be very rarely seen anywhere. It is erected to the mother of the late Dr. Solomon, and the inscription reads as follows: —

In Memory,
of
Amy A. Solomon,
wife of
John Solomon.
Born Feb. 9, 1760
Died May 8, 1864.
Aged 104 years &
3 months.
A kind and affectionate Mother.
None knew her but to love her,
None named her but to praise.
In God we live.

On the extreme western border of the town, on the Diamond Hill Road not far from the Cumberland line, is another family burial ground in which there seem also to have been about twenty interments. It is in a bright, sunny location well toward the summit of a considerable elevation on the farm of Mr. Lewis S. Carpenter, who occupies the commodious homestead dwelling-house near by, and whose father, Mr. John Carpenter, about three quarters of a century ago dedicated the spot to the uses of the dead. The space, perhaps forty by eighty feet, is enclosed by a substantial iron fence with

double entrance gates. It is on the edge of a little bluff, which rises abruptly from one or two sides; and stone steps lead from the roadside to the gateway. The stones are of white marble or granite, the older ones well preserved; the broad, intersecting paths are concreted, and the whole enclosure shows excellent care and attention. On the southerly side is a small plot about twenty-five feet square also enclosed by an iron fence, but with no indications of burials within it.

The earliest death indicated, and the one doubtless which caused the little graveyard to be made, is that of a son of Mr. Carpenter, upon whose tiny stone is this inscription: "Within this peaceful asylum repose the remains of Asa C. son of John Carpenter and Nancy his wife, who died March 1, 1816, aged 4 years and 6 months." Close beside are the stones to John Carpenter himself, who died May 18, 1851, in his seventy-eighth year, and to his wife, who died April 20, 1863, aged eighty-three years and six months. Namon B. Carpenter, Sylvia his wife, Delia Maria a very young daughter, and an infant daughter unnamed form another group of those buried here; and near by is a granite monument, erected in 1868, on which is an inscription to W. H. Carpenter, who died in 1888 at the age of seventy-four, and his wife Hannah, who died in 1867 aged forty-seven. Cynthia B., wife of Joseph B. Carpenter, died at the early age of "23 years"; and Susan C., wife of John B. Carpenter, and her little boy of nine lie side by side. Another group of stones are raised to Noah A., Abby his wife, and their son Henry Albert Carpenter. David Brown, who died October 18, 1849, aged ninety-three, Chloe, his wife, who died January 25, 1848, aged eighty-seven, and one Lydia Brown, who died December 1, 1856, in her sixty-eighth year, are the only persons of a different name buried here. The latest inscription is that of "Cynthia A. Cargill wife of Lewis S. Carpenter, Born Feb. 18, 1819, Died July 21, 1890." Beside hers is the husband's stone and exactly like it, on which is inscribed "Lewis S. Carpenter, Born May 12, 1817." It is pleasant to mention a family burial yard where the highest respect to their dead is shown by the living members in a careful preservation of all memorials and a constant attention to the ground made sacred to them as the resting-place of many of their loved ones; and it is especially pleasant to note one is so pretty a spot surrounded by some of the most attractive scenery in the entire old town.

About a hundred years ago a little plot of ground on the farm of Nathan Bolkcom, on Cutting's plain, began to be used as a burial place. It is just south of the house of the late Lorenzo Morse, on the west side of the road, and perhaps five or six hundred feet back from it. The space is about fifty feet square and is on the summit of a little knoll. It was formerly walled in, and remnants of the wall still remain on two sides, the other two being bounded by a rail fence. The place is wholly given over to the growths of nature, is now only a bit of wild woods. The graves are mostly leveled to

the surface, scarcely more than six or eight indications of mounds being visible. Two rough, unlettered stones, no doubt marking the head and foot of a grave, are standing; in another place a single stone, and in still another a small bowlder, which may also have been a grave-mark. Only three inscriptions are to be found. On a piece of stone lying on the ground can be read, "Mrs. Hannah Hall, Æt. 55." The stone is so narrow that only one word could be cut on a line, and the lower part of it, still embedded in the ground, crumbled into fragments when an attempt was made to raise it, so the remainder of the inscription could not be ascertained. This Mrs. Hall, wife of Ephraim Hall, is thought to be the first person buried here.

The second inscription reads: —

Chloe
Bolkcom died
Feb. 18, 1804
in the 27th year
of her age.
I turn to dust as here you see,
Prepare in time to follow me.

One Hannah Bolkcom was buried here, and in the southeast corner of the little yard a pair of twins and another young child of the same name. The third inscription is as follows: —

In memory of
Mr. Manning B. Wight,
who died March 9, 1829
in the 22d year of his age,
The only son of Simon & Huldah
Wight.
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

An unlettered stone marks the foot of this grave. Sally Wight, sister to the above, Huldah Wight, Nathan Bolkcom and Sarah, his wife, were buried here, and Betsy Bolkcom, the latter the last to be interred, and about forty or fifty years ago. The most of the facts relating to this spot were obtained from Mrs. Morse, widow of the late Lorenzo Morse and granddaughter of Nathan Bolkcom. The only other burial, so far as recalled, was that of an infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morse, who died January 3, 1839, at the age of 14 months and 9 days, in the midst of a storm so severe as to render it impossible to get to the cemetery where other members of the family are buried. Stones were erected to nearly if not quite all who were buried here, but all excepting those mentioned have entirely disappeared and probably by being destroyed, for when the wall was broken down they began to share its fate.

This vicinity is the ancient settling-place of the Bolkcoms. Of the three brothers who came early to this country, one settled here, and large quantities of land were cleared in time by members of the family who once owned

"down to the Fisher neighborhood." One of them worked for others at this occupation, and was paid in land, one acre for one day's work. Nathan Bolkcom, when he was a young man, concluded he would go away from home to seek his fortune, which he apparently soon found and brought back with him in the form of a wife, Sarah, — well-named Jewell, — of Haverhill. She came to town with her husband at the age of twenty-four and lived to be ninety-four, in all those seventy years returning but twice to her native town. The women of those days did their full share in the pioneer work in which the men were engaged and found enough to occupy their minds and hands in the daily duties of their humble homes. They had no unhealthy craving for publicity and the so-called necessary "wider sphere," but were content to spend and be spent in the place where their lot was cast. It is a pity that this woman who was crowned with almost a hundred years of life should have no lasting memorial tablet inscribed with some tribute to her deeds and virtues.

In the village of Briggsville, a few rods from Mr. Vickery's store, toward the Rehoboth line, on the other side of the road, is a very ancient burial place. One enters a cart-path leading into the woods, follows it a short distance, and then, turning to the right, scrambles through a thicket of low bushes or scrub oaks, filled with brambles and briers, and presently in its very midst comes upon a spot covered with cypress and finds here and there signs of graves. A solitary footstone with a few scarcely traceable letters inscribed upon it appears, and, looking about, the headstone comes into view, with another alongside containing a few readable words. Peering about and parting the branches, one finds a group of graves, one or two upright stones, partly visible, and again, almost hidden by bushes, in a tangle of wild vines and perhaps half-buried by the accumulations of the passing years, another group of two or three with headstones. In a space covering a few rods either way there are evidences of probably quite thirty burials, their places all more or less readily determined by piles of small stones, of the dimensions of mounds, over the bodies of adults, which remind one of the far Western custom of covering freshly made graves in that manner, to prevent the depredations of wild animals. Traces of rows are clear, but they are not on a line with either the road or the path. The spot was perhaps in the early days an attractive one, shaded with great trees and surrounded by the primeval forest, through whose midst the lonely highway ran; but it is now scores of years since it was wholly abandoned to neglect and decay, for, as our informant told us, "The second growth of timber is growing over the place." The little yard may originally have contained about a hundred feet square, for the graves now visible are all within that amount of space. It is elevated slightly above both the road and path and slopes a little on the other two sides, but there is not the slightest evidence of its ever having been

enclosed by wall or fence. Very little could be ascertained regarding it, for, while numbers know of its existence as a former burial place, no one appears to know anything about its origin as such, and no interments have been made within the remembrance of even elderly people. It is the property of Mr. Joseph L. Wetherell, of Briggsville, and he has no recollection of its mention in any deeds relating to the surrounding land. If therefore it was ever formally set apart, the fact has apparently been forgotten.

Very few stones are to be found at the present time, and those still standing will soon disappear if left alone. Possibly some might be found by digging beneath the surface, though attempts made in that direction have met with no result; either therefore there were none erected at many of the graves, or they have been totally destroyed. Those found are all of black slate, the majority ornamented with cherubs' faces, some of which are very peculiar in their expression; one can almost see depicted disgust at their forlorn surroundings or discouragement over their melancholy fate. Some twelve or fourteen stones were discovered and their inscriptions copied. The most ancient one is to "Mr. John Titus who departed this life Oct. 9, 1732, in his 30th Year." There are graves beside his, which are perhaps those of his parents, though there is nothing to verify the conjecture. He may have been of the family of Robert Titus, some of whose descendants are living in the East village to-day, one of them, Mrs. J. O. Tiffany, daughter of the late Joseph French, a great-granddaughter, and Mr. J. L. Sweet, a great-great-grandson. There are a footstone with no lettering on it, a large stone with the letters "A. D." and "Died in 1743," and a broken one with "A. D." only traceable. The family of the deceased must have carved these inscriptions as a matter of "saving," for the letters are only slightly cut and are queerly arranged, resembling in form those of the first attempts of a child learning to print.

Several members of the French family were buried here. On the stone of one, "Daniel French" and "1745" only could be read; on another, "Mr Thomas French died June y^{e} 3, 1746 in y^{e} 50th year of his age"; and on still another, the full inscription, "In Memory of M^{r} Christopher French who died July 17, 1755 in his 81st year," apparently; on another stone, "Mr Israel Reed jun. who died Sept. ye 26, 1756, in ye 25 year of his age"; and the footstone showing the name and year of death is standing. The two best preserved stones are inscribed as follows: —

In Memory of
Lamech Blandin
he died March ye
22^{d} 1774 in ye 51st
year of his
Age.

In Memory of
Rachel widow of Mr.
Lamech Blandin, who
died Feb. 28th 1812
in the 85th year of
her age.

The footstones at these graves are both intact.

Six stones bear the name of Wilmarth, and the inscriptions are all traceable without much difficulty. They are as follows: "In Memory of Lieut. Daniel Willmarth, he Died Feb. 17th 1769 in the 54th year of his age." A part of his footstone still remains.

In Memory of
Mr. Jonathan
Wilmarth
who died Sep
tember ye 14
1756 in ye 67th
Year of his
Age.

In Memory of
Bulah Willmarth
Relict of Mr
Jonathan Willmarth
Dec'd Febr 14th
1770 in ye 79th
Year of her Age.

Both footstones with names and dates on them are at these graves.

In Memory of
Jonathan Willmarth
Jun. Dec'd April ye 20
1752 in ye 26th Year of
his Age.

Remember me as you pass by
For as you are so once was I
And as I am so must you be
Therefore prepare to follow me.

The stones erected to "Capt. Moses Willmarth," who "died Nov. 16, 1799 in his 68th Year," and to his wife, "Mrs. Elizabeth Wilmarth," who "died Sept. 24 1814 in her 82d year," are in a good state of preservation. He was the great-grandfather of Mrs. Joseph H. Lincoln and was probably the Revolutionary captain. The old homestead of this branch of the family is on what is now Horn Street, near the schoolhouse. With its ancient, well-kept house, with long, low-sloping roof, generous barn, and yard with beautiful elms, it is a noticeable place, one of peculiar New England attractiveness. Wilmarths settled very early in this part of the town, and from them are descended many if not all of the name and connection now in town. Frenches have also been in this vicinity for many years, and as those are the names most numerous in the little graveyard, the families being formerly, perhaps, as in later years connected, it seems reasonable to suppose that members of one or both may have put aside the land for a family or neighborhood burial ground, though possibly, as a Titus was, so far as now known, the first to be buried in it, that family may have devoted it to such uses. The matter is entirely one of conjecture.

It is always sad to see a spot which has been set apart as a resting-place for the dead in any way neglected or disturbed, even when its purpose remains clearly visible; but it is sadder still to find one like this totally abandoned and allowed to return wholly unrestrained to its original state, a natural forest. It would seem as if enough persons could be found among the descendants of these early dead and those interested in the commencement

of the history of our town, to do the work necessary to rescue from utter oblivion this small piece of sacred ground and to preserve the few scattered relics of some of the fathers yet remaining here, before a final "too late" is said.

So far as known to the Editor those mentioned comprise all the burial places both public and private in town.

CHAPTER XXII.

TOPOGRAPHY. — DESCRIPTION OF ATTLEBOROUGH, ENGLAND. — EARLY CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY, ETC.

ATTLEBOROUGH is one of the ancient towns of the Commonwealth, incorporated as has been seen in 1694, and at that time comprising what is now the town of Cumberland, R. I. It was the northwest corner of the Old Colony and included a large and valuable tract of country. Within those former limits there is now a population probably of nearly if not quite twenty-five thousand people, engaged in a great variety of employments. The town is bounded on the north by Wrentham, on the east by Mansfield and Norton, on the south by Rehoboth, Seekonk, and Pawtucket, R. I., and on the west by Cumberland, R. I. The latitude of the Second Congregational Church is 41° 56′ 42.55″, and the longitude 71° 17′ 16.86″. The area by actual survey is reported as $45\frac{83}{100}$ square miles, or 29,331 acres, and is among the largest towns in the State in size. The general surface is level, more generally so than the majority of the towns in the State, though in some sections it is diversified. The westerly and northwesterly portions are more hilly and uneven than the eastern. Of the latter it has been said: "It may be stated, as an illustration of the horizontal surface of this section, that the railroad passes through it, 17 miles from Foxborough, south 36 degrees west, in an exactly straight line to the last crossing of the Ten Mile River, near the cove in Seekonk; and in the whole distance very little excavation or bank filling was required. At the crossing of the road leading from East Attleborough to Foxborough, east side of Bungay Swamp, it is 125 feet above high water mark at Providence, and 129 above that of Boston. From thence, southerly, it falls 5.86 feet per mile. At the station near the meeting-house, it is 123 feet above high water, and the inclination is 8.97 feet per mile. The grade of the road where it crosses the river, near the Dodgeville factory, is 108.33 feet, and the lowest bed of the river 85.41 feet above high water."[1]

There are no very high hills in the town. Ten Mile Hill, or as it is now called Mount Hope Hill, is the highest, and its most elevated part "is said to be the highest land in Bristol county." That region was quite famous in the days of Indian warfare, and incidents connected with it have been mentioned previously. The views from this hill are quite extensive and very pretty in several directions. This is especially true of that view which meets the eye looking westward from the summit. At the foot of the hill lies the village of

[1] See Sanitary Survey of Attleborough, published 1850.

North Attleborough, quite embowered in its myriads of beautiful shade trees, with here and there a roof or chimney peeping above them or a church spire pointing heavenward, while beyond the plain is dotted with thrifty farms and comfortable homesteads, and in the far background stretch the gently sloping Cumberland hills. The harsh lines of the manufactories are toned down by the graceful environment of vivid, changing green or the flaming brilliancy with which autumn surrounds us; one is beyond the sound of the roaring and rumbling of engine and wheel, and for the moment the busy, bustling place becomes to the vision that ever picturesque and charming spot, the peaceful, rural New England village of a half-century or more ago. Oak Hill in the southern part of the town is only a slight elevation, but as it rises abruptly from a level plain it is visible from considerable distances in various parts of the town and even beyond its limits. East of the village of Attleborough there is a somewhat curious hilly formation, — that over which the Rehoboth carriage road passes, — a ridge of land, in most places only wide enough for the road, rising quite abruptly from the level on either side. This is appropriately called the Ridge Hill. Its elevation is also slight, but the surrounding territory is so flat that an extended view is obtained toward the south and west. At one place the village, with its group of factories, its spires and towers, seen through the haze of a summer afternoon, looks like a section of a great city and as if the next turn would bring into sight the whole wide teeming area. But the vision fades with a glance and one scarce has a glimpse even of the village again until its midst is nearly reached. Rattlesnake Hill and Red Rock Hill near South Attleborough are worthy of mention with the other eminences. The latter is part of a continuous range or ridge running through the westerly part of the territory from northeast to southwest in its general course until it terminates at the Blackstone River.

The rock jutting out from this ridge and exposed to view presents a deep and rather dark red color, which indicates the presence of iron ore in the soil and was caused doubtless by the subjection of the earth in past ages to a high degree of heat. This rock gradually crumbles to dust on exposure to the atmosphere, and in sudden rains dull-colored streams are formed, which flow down the sides of the elevation and over the roads in all directions, dyeing the adjacent soil with its own hue. In the Sanitary Survey above referred to this ridge is called "a strata of graywacke conglomerate soil, of the red slaty variety," and Red Rock Hill "is comprised almost entirely of this variety. It is frequently mixed with other varieties; and Professor Hitchcock[1] supposes that 'beds of limestone, enough to be worked, may be discovered.' Some parts contain 94.6 per cent. of carbonate of lime; sometimes

[1] Dr. Hitchcock, formerly a professor at Amherst, who is quoted above, suggested a geological survey of this State, the first of a long series in the United States and also "the first survey of an entire State under the authority of government in the world."

26.8 per cent. of alumina; 'and being often intermixed with red slate, it would form when polished, a beautiful marble, if masses large enough could be obtained.'" In many places this range obtains some considerable elevation, in others is depressed to the level of the adjoining surface, as if worn away by the corrosions of time, but its soil preserves everywhere the same color. Otherwise the prevailing rock in the town is generally conglomerate, or pudding-stone, with only an unfrequent small ledge of granite. The southern portion of the town has a light, sandy soil and includes an extension of Seekonk Plain, which it is believed by geologists was once covered by the sea.

The general growth of timber is oak, — white, red, black, and yellow, — walnut, birch, white pine and black; the lowlands include maple, birch, beech, some ash, elm, chestnut, and cedar. Scattered here and there all over the town are many beautiful elms, some of them very large and some very old; again and again these may be seen throwing their long pendent branches in a graceful and protecting manner over old homesteads, as if expressing a desire to defend them from the destroying hand of man and from the ravages of time. Maples, which grow rapidly and luxuriantly, are much planted for shade trees, and in some of the village streets their broad-spreading branches have intertwined and in the summer time form beautiful arches of dense, green foliage overhead.

There are indications of coal in some parts of the town; these extend from Foxborough through Mansfield, Attleborough, and Cumberland. The coal is of the anthracite variety and was mined in Cumberland about 1830 and used to some extent. Shafts were sunk in Mansfield many years ago, and in later years boring was again tried, but the layers reached were found to be too thin for profitable mining. A deeper penetration beneath the surface might perhaps discover a more abundant supply, should the demand ever make further attempts in this vicinity a necessity. At the time of the settlement of the town the surface was largely covered with timber. This was principally white oak of a large growth and suitable for ship building. Portions of the low lands on the banks of the streams were open and produced a growth of wild or meadow grass, and some spots had been cleared and cultivated by the Indians. The streams abounded in fish and the forests in certain species of game. According to tradition bears and rattlesnakes were occasionally found. Rattlesnake Brook and Rattlesnake Hill, before mentioned, and Bear Swamp, now called Bearcroft, in the eastern part of the town, are names preserved to the present time and would seem to confirm the tradition. The probable origin of the last-mentioned name can still be traced. In the old house on Pleasant Street, owned by the late Jacob Briggs, there lived something over a hundred years ago one Caleb Parmenter; and his wife, Elizabeth Parmenter, shot a bear from one of its west windows. The animal doubtless came from the woods or swamp lying

adjacent to the house, and the name given to the region would seem to be the natural result of the incident. Fish being an important article of food among the natives, they had a number of fishing stations in this region, such as Waweepoonseag (the place of nets), Little Squisset and High Squisset, Mamantapett, Sinnechiteconet, etc. Their rude tools and stone arrows, axes, pestles, mortars, and other articles have frequently been found and are sometimes to this day in plowing the grounds they once occupied.[1] The surface of the land in Attleborough is similar to that of many other New England towns, diversified in its scenery, comprising large portions of fertile and valuable soil and other portions of what is called waste land, unimproved. Much of the surface which has not been subdued or cultivated is still covered with wood, probably more than one third of the whole. There are, as formerly, some swamps and low and wet lands, but a large part of the soil consists of a gravelly and sandy loam. There is much good agriculture in the town and abundance of fruit and vegetables, which find a ready market in the different manufacturing villages.

The rivers are worthy of notice, not so much for their size as for the valuable water privileges which they afford. These are now and, since some of the very earliest settlements were made, have been used for manufacturing purposes. There are several streams of water in the town, the principal of which is the Ten Mile River. This name was given to it very early, though it would seem with but little propriety. It has its source on the farm of the late Mr. John Fuller, in the southern part of Wrentham, about a mile from the Attleborough line, and, running in a generally southerly direction through the length of this town and through Seekonk, empties into Seekonk Cove, an arm of Narragansett Bay, now called Seekonk River. Its length in this town is some thirteen miles, its entire length twenty-five miles. In its passage through the town it falls about one hundred and thirty-two feet. "In an average current it discharges about 50 cubic feet of water per second." Its average width is two rods and a half. This stream is exceedingly important to the interests of the town, for on it still are many of our principal manufacturing establishments. There are within the limits of the town ten falls on this stream, which has furnished water-power to many of the factories, to small cotton mills, saw and grist mills, etc., such as were scattered over Massachusetts years ago. At one time long since there were fifteen of these; one in Wrentham, ten in Attleborough, and four in Seekonk. To-day there are, no doubt, more factories in number along the line of this little river and of a size and finish to astonish the log-built grist-mill and its rude successors of the early days. The next stream in size

[1] A small stone arrowhead was found in 1889 on the farm of the late author of this work. It was turned up by the plow in a field lying on the "Old Bay Road" north of the house and was given by the present owner of the farm to Major E. S. Horton and may be seen in his antiquarian collection.

is Seven Mile River. This "traverses the westerly part of the town, from north to south," and unites with the Ten Mile River a little above Kent's factory near the Pawtucket line. Its entire length is about ten miles, "and it discharges about 15 cubic feet a second." The third or fourth stream in size is the Bungay, said sometimes to have been pronounced Bun*gay*, accent on the last syllable, and sometimes Bungee. This has its source in the northerly part of the town near the Mansfield line, a little below the Witch Pond, and after a journey of about five miles over an unusually level bed falls into the Ten Mile River nearly in the centre of the town, between the Farmers and Mechanics factories. Originating in a number of springs, it is an unfailing stream at all seasons of the year, but its current is sluggish and it discharges only "about 10 cubic feet per second." Another small stream called Abbott's Run [1] rises in the northeasterly part of Cumberland and crossing the line several times between that town and this empties into the Blackstone River just below Valley Falls. Its length is about four miles. There are two or three other streams which have been deemed worthy of names: Four Mile Brook, about three and a half miles long, and Chartley Brook, three miles long, while a tiny stream, which runs quietly along for some distance through fields and meadows and crosses the road not far from the Agricultural Association grounds, was called Rattlesnake Brook.

There are no natural ponds of any considerable size in town, but numbers of artificial ones have been formed by the construction of dams to meet the requirements of the manufactories in various places, and among these are several which may justly be called very pretty. First in point of size and beauty is the Falls Pond, which is divided into two portions by a carriage road, and which to the casual observer at least presents most of the features of a picturesque natural lake, while the "Reservoir" if not so familiar would seem to us an attractive body of water, for it is in miniature like many a wild mountain lake, which people have traveled miles to see. There are several low swamps or meadows in town of a greater or less extent, of which the most considerable is the "Bungay Great Swamp," as it is called in some of the ancient deeds, or sometimes the "Cedar Swamp." It lies on both sides of the river and extends from the village of Attleborough to the reservoir. Near the sources of the Bungay is a pond which was originally separate, but is now connected with the reservoir by the cutting many years ago, in 1833, of a channel from it to the head of the stream. It is called "Witch Pond" and is an extensive quagmire, including about fifteen acres, only a small part of which is covered with water. It is rather singular in its appearance and may be justly considered a curiosity. A hard bottom has

[1] Said to have derived its name from one Abbott, a boy who was drowned there in the early settlement of the place. It is supposed by some that the Indian name of the place was Waweepoonseag, but this is doubtful conjecture.

never been discovered in any part of it. In some places it will at first bear the weight of a man, but if he stands for a time he will gradually sink till he is unable to extricate himself.

The topography of our town contains nothing very peculiar, as has been seen, and it is therefore needless to enlarge upon it, as is often done in the sketches of towns. Suffice it to say that in this respect it is similar to most towns in this vicinity, that its surface presents the usual diversity of hills and vales, that its soil embraces much land that is poor and considerable that is good, and that its natural and agricultural products are the same as those of neighboring towns. It has, however, one peculiar characteristic. Various causes, such as the great extent of territory, the location of mill powers somewhat widely separated on the same or on separate rivers, "and the genius and pursuits of industry of the inhabitants," generally diffused and not confined to any one locality, "have given rise to several considerable villages in different sections of the town, and prevented any one from becoming a common centre for the whole." This was more especially true forty years ago when these words were written, but subsequently, as is well known, there came to be two large and thriving rival centres, and these became each the leading centre of its town when the division was made.

Attleborough derived its name without doubt from the town of Attleborough in Norfolk County, England. Some of our early inhabitants emigrated to this country from that region, settling at first in several different places, but finally a few of them are known to have come to Rehoboth, and, afterwards becoming interested in the purchase and settlement of this territory, there is every reason to suppose that when it became a town they selected and bestowed the name in remembrance of their native place. This origin of the name is confirmed by the circumstance that in the English town there is a river called Bungay,[1] of about the same size as the one of that name in this town, and a town of the same name, Bungay, is in the near vicinity. One Thomas Doggett[2] came to this country from Attleborough, England, and he is supposed to be the brother of John, the first[3] ancestor of the Daggetts of Massachusetts and Connecticut. A John Sutton,[4] with his wife and four children, also came from that place. His daughter, Anne, married John Daggett, a son of that John who, so far as is known, was the first to lay out lands at the Falls.[5] It is therefore both natural and reasonable to

[1] See Globe Encyclopædia, "Bungay," p. 531.

[2] Thomas Daggett, aged thirty years, examined for a certificate of license to emigrate to New England, May 13, 1637. See Drake's Researches, p. 50.

[3] He went first, as has been seen, to Watertown, this State, and thence to the Vineyard; and descendants of his from there settled in both Rehoboth and this town. [Recent research does not confirm this supposed relationship of Thomas and John. — EDITOR.]

[4] He came first to Hingham and then removed to Rehoboth, where he was as early as the "4th mo. 1644."

[5] John Doggett, or Daggett, who married Anne Sutton, was one of the original proprietors of the North Purchase. He was son of John the first, of Watertown. He probably, not his father, was the

decide that these people, with probably others from the same vicinity in the old country, gave its name to our town.

The derivation of the name is "At-le-burgh," meaning at the borough, fort, or castle — "Atleburgh." In a work entitled "Bloomfield's Norfolk," published in 1739, volume i, page 501, may be found the following: "Atleburgh. This Place without doubt hath been very famous in early Times as all the Authors that speak of it unanimously agree." The author then goes on to say: "I think the present name shows its signification, which, it will be proper to observe hath suffered but little change from the time of the Confessor to this day. Atleburc, — burg, or borough is the same, and it being certain that the term burg or borough (as we now pronounce it) always signifies a castle, fort, or such like as the learned Spelman in his Icenia justly observes, we may conclude that it was called At-le-burgh, or the town at the burg, or the borough town from its being situated by an ancient burgh or fortification and from its being larger and of more repute at that time than its neighbors." According to one John Brame, a monk of Thetford, who, many years before the writer above quoted, wrote a history of that region: "It was sometime not only a city, but the metropolis of all Norfolk, founded by Atlinge.[1] then King of that Province in order to oppose Rond King of Theodford, and by him fortified with a ditch, wall, four gates and four towers; and from this Atlinge he would have it called Atlinge's Burgh or Atleburgh." Bloomfield does not, however, credit that story, as he finds, he says, "no appearance or remains of any such walls, gates, or towers," and some would, he is sure, have remained until his day had the city possessed such considerable fortifications. He therefore considers that the burgh from which the name came was a fortification of hills only, such forts having been made during some of the early invasions of that portion of the country — its low and fen lands having no natural hills to be fortified. Still another writer thinks that the town was formerly called Ethelingburgh, "because it might belong in the time of the Saxons to some eminent nobleman of that name, who was nearly related to the Saxon kings, and had his residence here, being induced to think thus, because this part belonged to the crown till the Conqueror's time."

The real date of the founding of the place would seem to be shrouded in more or less mystery, but the following quaint record, quoted by Bloomfield from some "ancient book" will serve to show that its foundations were laid at a very early period in England's history: "In the Year 841, Edmund, Son of Alkmund King of Saxony, was born at Noremburg in Saxony, of Queen Suiara, and soon after it happened that Offa, King of the East Angles, who

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one who laid out lands at the Falls (History of the Doggett-Daggett family, by Samuel B. Doggett, published 1894, in Boston).

[1] The Editor was not able to find the date when that king is supposed to have reigned, but it was probably not many centuries after the Christian era.

had no Heir, passed thro' Saxony on his journey to the Holy Land, where he went in Pilgrimage to beseech God, to give him an Heir, and Calling upon his cousin Alkmund, he adopted Edmund his Son, his Heir, and then hastened to Jerusalem, where having performed his Vows he return'd, but in his Return, at a place called St. George's Arm, he was taken violently Ill, upon which he immediately sent for his Council, appointed Edmund his Successor, and sent him his Ring which he received from the Bishop, when he was made King of the East Angles, after he was dead the Angles went to the King of Saxony, and demanded Edward (Edmund) his Son, and received him, as Offa's Successor, and hastening Home, they landed at Hunstanston, from whence they carried him to the antient City called Atleburg, where he lived a whole Year, yielding himself up chiefly to Devotion, here he perfected what he had begun in Saxony, namely to repeat all the Psalms without a Book, and at the Year's end, he went to Suffolk," etc. The present situation of the village or "Town" is not its original one. Some historians conjecture that the removal was because of the "lowness and moistness of the situation," and that would seem to indicate that the original site of the "antient City" was nearer to the sea. In the Norfolk Domesday book the "Burgh" is called "Attelburc and the present Town is called the Other Attelburc." The "Burgh," as it is often called, was "Head of the Hundred,"[1] and so continued until its removal, or "till the neighboring castle of Bukenham was built after the Removal of the Chief of the Inhabitants from it to the present situation of the Town, which is far better than its old one at the Burgh."

All the records show that Attleborough was formerly a city of considerable size and of great importance, and it no doubt retained its privileges and great prosperity through a number of centuries. It established numerous manufactories and engaged in an extensive trade with the surrounding country, and it was a great market town. In the far back olden days it no doubt had its great castles, which were maintained with all the rude magnificence and barbaric splendor pertaining to the great warrior barons of feudal times. Among these was the once famous Bungay Castle, and the author conjectured that the town may have gained some at least of its former distinction from being the situation of or in the near vicinity to this grand baronial residence. Attleburgh Manor "contained the third part of Attleburgh, or all of the Other Attleburgh, or the whole of that part where the present Church and Town stands." This belonged to the Mortimers,[2] a family which figured prominently, it would seem, in at least county history

[1] The name given in some parts of England to the subdivisions of a shire and said to have been a Danish appellation adopted by King Alfred in 897.

[2] By some this family appears to be confounded with that of the same name a member of which in the fourteenth century was created Earl of March, and who is said to have had a castle here. Those who bore that title were not, however, distinguished for advancing such causes as education and religion, as were the owners of Attleburgh Manor, who for many generations are mentioned as benefactors of all good works.

and came into this possession "very early if not in the time of the Conqueror," with whom the family, of French extraction, is said to have come into England.

The founder of the first church in Attleborough is not known, but one Sir Wm. de Mortimer made the first alterations and previous to the year 1297. In 1386 Sir Robert de Mortimer, knight, "designed the foundation of a chantry or college in the parish church, to the honor of the exaltation of the holy cross; but being prevented by death, his executors or trustees built and endowed the same for a master or warden and four secular priests, about the seventh year of Henry IV." Sir Robert died in 1387 and was buried in the church, and it is said the priests were to sing in the chapel forever for his and his wife Margery's soul. In the year 1402 the estate of the Mortimer family was divided, and this manor, through marriages probably in the female line, came into possession of the Earls of Sussex,[1] a family very familiar in later English history. Many famous persons it is said have been buried in the church, and at one time it contained many monuments of the families of Mortimer, Blickly, and Ratcliffe.[2] Attached to the church organization were what were called "The Great" and "The Little Rectory Manor," the former containing the first and second, and the latter the third part of the town. After the place ceased to be the capital of Norfolk County, it was divided into Attleburgh Major and Attleburgh Minor, but later these were again united under one name. Some turbulent people dwelt aforetime within the confines of the old town, for an insurrection of the common people against the gentry, which occurred June 20, 1549, began at Attleborough and other places, and it assumed no mean proportions, for the insurgents became 20,000 strong. It was called "Kitt's rebellion." The town had early an endowed school and several other educational institutions, and an ancient "Gild" where the poor were relieved is mentioned. Near the town are the remains of an obelisk erected to the memory of Sir Edward Rich, who in 1675 gave £200 towards the formation of a highway between "Attleburgh" and Wymondham, for which an act was obtained "in the seventh year of Wm. III,"[3] and which is said to have been the first turnpike

[1] Robert, Earl of Sussex in time of Henry VIII, spoiled portions of the church building, "pulled up many fair, marble gravestones of his ancestors with monuments of brass upon them, and other fair, good pavement, and carried them and laid them for floors, in his hall, kitchen and larder house;" he also "got 14 crosses and as much town plate as was then worth 100 l from the church," by that means reducing the chancel to ruins. The old recorder very justly calls him "of a covetous disposition."

[2] In "The Burnham Rolls" was found the following amusing record: "In Attleburgh Church lies the famous Captain Gibbs who was a great gamester and horse racer in Charles II's time, and of whom the greatest exploit recorded was how he 'laid a wager of £500, that he drove his light chaise and four horses up and down the deepest part of the Devil's Ditch on Newmarket Heath'; which he performed by making a very light chaise with a jointed perch and without any pole, to the surprise of all the spectators."

[3] The above is quoted from a "British Gazetteer" published in 1852, but there seems to be an error in its record. Charles II was king of England in 1675, and according to Appleton's Encyclopædia the first turnpike act was passed in that year, the sixteenth of his reign. The reign of William III did not commence till 1689. The fact given is worthy of notice, and therefore this correction is made.

road made in the kingdom. The town was very early a market town and a place for holding fairs. In 1310 one Constantine Mortimer had a charter for a yearly fair at his "Manor of Atleburgh," and up to within a recent date fairs were held there on the Thursday before Easter, the Thursday after Holy Thursday, and the fifteenth of August for cattle and toys, while the regular weekly market-day was Thursday. The once prominent city has now dwindled to a small village, its pristine glory has departed, its beauties have faded and gone, and apparently the only relics of the famous past which it now retains are its regular market-days and annual fairs, which possibly are still great occasions to the small tradespeople and the farmers of the surrounding region.

There is a great natural curiosity not far from the town which, as will be seen, is not inappropriately mentioned here. It is the Winfarthing Oak. "This gigantic relic of the sylvan glories of 'the olden time,' stands on the estate of the Right Hon. the Earl of Albemarle,[1] about four miles from his seat of Quiddenham Hall, Winfarthing, in the midst of what was formerly 'Winfarthing Great Park,' anciently a royal demesne, belonging to the adjacent palace of Kenning Hall Place,[2] from whence Mary of unhappy memory, was called to the throne in 1553. It was conjectured that this tree must have been in existence before the Christian era, and is probably the oldest oak tree in the world, and this opinion is strengthened by the fact that notwithstanding the obvious ravages of time upon its massive trunk, yet no perceptible alteration has taken place within the last sixty years." In 1820 the oak was seventy feet in circumference at the extremity of the (visible) roots, and in the middle, just above the ground, forty feet. "The trunk is completely hollow, the heart being entirely decayed, and the inside presenting a singular appearance, resembling the old, rugged masonry befitting a Druidical temple. It is fitted up inside with seats, a table, etc. Over the door-way entrance is placed by the late Mr. Doggett, many years since the respected tenant of the surrounding farm, a brass plate with an inscription soliciting from visitors to the Oak donations for the Bible Society."

INSCRIPTION ON THE PLATE.

Ye who this venerable oak survey,
Which still survives through many a stormy day,
Deposit here your mite with willing hands,
To spread in foreign climes, through foreign lands,
The Sacred Volume so divinely given
Whose pages teach the narrow way to Heaven.

Doggett.

[1] He was one of the most enlightened and liberal-minded of noblemen, the advocate of liberal principles, and the friend of America. In 1874 he presented an original portrait of Washington to the Massachusetts Historical Society of Boston. He was a well-known peer of England and for some time was called "the father of the House of Lords." He died early in the year 1891 at the remarkable age of about ninety-two years, having "seen the whole of the nineteenth century."

[2] The seat of the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk.

Oh send out thy light and thy truth.
King David.

May every subject in my dominions possess a Bible, and be able to read it.
King George III.[1]

In the summer of 1884 the Editor had the pleasure of visiting Attleborough, Old England, no doubt the first among the descendants of its emigrants (or those of the near vicinity) to this town who has done so. Certainly its ancient glories have departed, and its former grandeur is but a fast-fading memory. There could scarcely be a greater contrast than exists between it and either one of the large, central villages of its namesake in New England to-day. Nothing in an English village ever seems to look new and fresh; our typical white, wooden house, with its green blinds and shading elms, or the gayly painted "Queen Anne" cottage is entirely unknown. All the English houses are built of brick or stone or sometimes of a combination of cobblestones and stucco, and even in the process of erection they look old. Everything bears the stamp of accumulated years; even the flowers in the dooryards and gardens seem to have bloomed and faded and bloomed again in the same places and in the same staid and decorous manner for many succeeding generations. Still the time-worn look never degenerates into the appearance of neglect, everything looks trim and thrifty, order and cleanliness prevail, and the impression that the old age is a hale, hearty, and cheerful one is unmistakable.

Attleborough has a railroad, but running so far outside the village that within its precincts the rush of the trains can scarcely be heard. We saw no traces of manufacturing; no hum of business or rustle of trade reached our ears; hardly a person, either man, woman, or child, was to be seen in the street; even the unusual appearance of strangers evidently from afar aroused no manifestation of curiosity, for the entire place continued during our stay to be as quiet as if the most rigid, puritanical Sabbath had suddenly settled down upon it. It is a rambling, straggling sort of village of possibly two to three thousand inhabitants,[2] with one long, winding street through the centre, lined on either side with low buildings, none exceeding two stories in height. Within the length of two or three ordinary city blocks we counted twelve or fifteen public houses, conclusive proof that market-days must still be in vogue, when bountiful refreshment is needed both by man and beast, and showing that this is no doubt amply provided, so far at least as liquids are concerned, for each "public" was licensed to sell "beer, wine, and

[1] The book from which this description was taken is entitled "Nooks and Corners of Old England," not a recent publication.

[2] This surmise has since been proved to be nearly correct. In 1849 the population of the town was estimated to be 2,252. It contained 372 houses. Its area is 5,800 acres, and about 1850 the assessed property amounted to £9,577, not quite $50,000. Appearances in 1884 indicated that these figures would apply at the present time without material change.

spirits." Over one door was a notice to the effect that the sale of these was forbidden in that establishment on Sunday, and the proprietor found time apparently to combine with his duties as a landlord those of another occupation; appropriately perhaps, he was also an undertaker. There were several humble shops with cheap-looking, unattractive wares exposed for sale, but one looked in vain for those unmistakable signs of briskness in trade to be seen about Yankee village stores; the attendants here were thoroughly occupied in doing nothing. We saw but one lawyer's office and but one doctor's sign in our stroll through almost the entire length of the village. The people, we concluded, must be either very peaceable and extremely healthy, or pitiably ignorant of the requirements of the present enlightened age in the directions controlled by members of these professions. Our town can boast of great advancement in those lines of civilization, with its half-dozen teachers in the marvelous intricacies of the law and its nearly two dozen guides among the devious paths and diverse methods of the healing art.

At the entrance to the village on our journey from the railway station stands the church, conspicuous for size and much larger than any such structure in our town. It is built in a rather curious fashion of a combination of both rough and smooth stones, and it presents a quaint and picturesque appearance in its setting of green sward and clustering tombstones. It is spoken of as "a fine collegiate edifice, in the form of a cross, with a tower rising at the intersection." This was the only church building we saw and it looked venerable enough to be, as in its present condition it is said to be, something over two hundred years old. The old church which stood here it would seem almost "from time immemorial" was, we were told, considerably battered in Cromwell's time and was subsequently rebuilt in its present form. The interior is extremely plain, even to bareness, has no stained glass windows, and possesses nothing of interest but an old wooden altar screen upon which are painted the coats-of-arms of the twenty-four English bishops. The following record from a parish register, which begins in 1552, seems to refer to this screen: In 1615 some repairs were made by one John Forbes, "who set up the Bishopricks Arms in the Church, and those of the Colleges." The screen now faces the altar at the opposite end of the church, where it forms the front of a small gallery. We wandered about for some time among the graves in the little churchyard but found no familiar names, though there were many very ancient tombstones. A small narrow gate leads from this spot directly to the rectory grounds, but the incumbent had but recently entered upon his duties and would not probably have had any special knowledge of the former history of the place or people, therefore we did not venture to present ourselves before him soliciting information. We were informed that it is at present very difficult to find any clergyman willing to occupy the living, as "there are no gentry for him to associate with." Alas! the mighty are fallen indeed; not a single being is left to tread in the foot-

steps of the great ones of the past. Forty years ago the Methodists, Baptists, and Society of Friends had places of worship in the town, but we saw nothing resembling Dissenting chapels in the region we explored.

We inquired of the old woman sweeping the church which might be the best public house where we could lunch and were directed to a certain one as the "least disreputable." Somewhat dismayed we crossed the street and found ourselves at the undertaker's door, but no amount of ringing or rapping brought even the faintest response from any living thing. The wide-open door invited our entrance, and we crossed the threshold but wakened only echoes along the hallway and from the stone-flagged floor of the empty eating-room. It was as silent there as any typical undertaker's dwelling could ever hope to be, and every member of the household had apparently lent himself to the maintenance of the proper degree of decorous and tomb-like silence. The pangs of a very real American hunger were fast becoming paramount to all other feelings and forced us to try our fate elsewhere. All the other places were said to be "worse" than this first one indicated; so what matters it which one is tried? Again we crossed the street and rapped vigorously at another door. A tidy, fresh-looking young English girl promptly answered our summons and asked our pleasure. "Can we get some lunch?" "What would you like?" "What have you?" "We can give you a chop" — the almost invariable formula in a small English country inn and very speedily the typical and appetizing meal is served in a well-appointed dining-parlor. Perfect chops, perfectly cooked, the cottage loaf on its round board with knife beside it, the Cheddar cheese as good as the bread, the pot of delicious tea, and if desired the mug of foaming home-brewed ale. So excellent was the luncheon prepared for us in this unassuming little "public," and so well and neatly served, that we were fully persuaded the old woman in the church was possessed of sinister motives or personal spites and had, one and all, basely belied the inns of her native place. Though very antiquated the old town has not lost all her youthful cunning or forgotten all her useful knowledge, for her skill in cooking, if old in fashion, is still superior, and we feel sure that so far as the entertainment of her inns is concerned she can vie with her namesake of the new world in the serviceable and delightful art of making guests comfortable and satisfied.

The ancient castles of this region must needs have been strong fortifications, for the surrounding country affords no natural advantages in the way of defence. It is for the most part decidedly level, though here and there it becomes undulating, resembling somewhat the formation of the rolling prairies of our West. Its surface is not, however, wholly unlike that of our town, the lack of hills considered. The trees appear to be more or less stunted in their growth and are not so numerous as with us, yet many general resemblances in the scenery may be recognized. We drove six or eight miles to see the great "Winfarthing Oak," and our way lay through a succession

of most fertile farms. The hay crops were enormous, frequently half clover, and there was scarcely space to heap them on the ground; and the grain appeared to be equally abundant in its yield. We bowled swiftly along over roads as smooth and hard as if macadamized and laid out for the most part in straight lines: road-making is not a lost art in that region as it seems to be in ours. We passed through only one village in the entire length of our drive. Its little central common was mostly covered by a shallow pond; and ducks, dogs, and children were making use of it as a general recreation ground in the most cheerful and friendly manner. We caught sight first of the lesser oak, which is visible from a great distance over the surrounding plain, stretching its gaunt and almost leafless branches defiantly toward heaven. Our giants of the forest would be but dwarfs by its side,[1] and it in turn is a pygmy compared with its greater neighbor. The size of that one has not been exaggerated. It would doubtless measure seventy feet around the exposed roots, and the trunk, though increased in size by its ivy covering, looked to be forty feet in circumference some considerable height above the ground. The inside is now filled with rubbish, but the cleared space would seat two dozen people comfortably. The old tree is fast going to decay and falling in several places, though it is propped with strong iron bands. From the inside we could see one huge knot still alive, out of which great leafy branches were growing vigorously — large trees in themselves. The present tenant of the surrounding farm was our guide to this interesting spot upon the property, and he told us that the immediate predecessor of his grandfather upon the place was the Mr. Doggett who put the inscription upon the tree. All traces of the inscription are gone, but a box still remains attached, bearing a request for offerings, not for the Bible Society, but for the "poor widows of the parish." One of us in proof of both general and personal interest in this glorious old monarch of the woods was about to drop in a half-crown when our host interposed, saying that nothing above a shilling was ever expected from any visitor. This was in marked contrast to the owner of our trap, who demanded nearly double the bargained price for its use on our return to the inn where we hired it. We drove back through the softened sunshine, — it is never glaring in England, — thinking if the hedges were turned into stone walls, if the houses were built of timber, and a wooded hill rose here and there, the appearance of the country would be by no means unfamiliar. The emigrants in selecting what is now Attleborough, Mass., for their new home may certainly have been reminded of the scenery of the old home left behind. But beyond a certain general resemblance, which nature furnishes to-day as formerly, all comparison must cease. The

[1] There is an oak in one of the fields along Horn Street, which in miniature resembles this lesser tree. The trunk tapers rapidly upward and the few remaining branches are scraggy, knotted, and gnarled. It has lost its youthful grace and is lean and grim and crazy-looking, like the great Winfarthing trees, which are dying from the top.

new Attleborough is busy, enterprising, progressive — in a word thoroughly alive; the old Attleborough is inert, stagnant, dying, with not enough life remaining to be ever again aroused to any degree of bustle and activity. But this is only the result of the natural order of things. The same laws of decadence govern the town, the city, that govern the nation; all rise but to fall in time. The same old processes have been at work there, but the name still remains, and we may be proud that it is one which in ages past became famous, and that our mother town once took high rank among her compeers in promoting and advancing both agricultural and industrial pursuits.

The first inhabitants of our town were a substantial and respectable class of people. They were, like most of the settlers of the other towns of the Old Colony, emigrants from England; seldom any of them were from Scotland and Wales. They were the right men and women to subdue and cultivate a new country and plant the civilization of their native land in this wilderness, to introduce and improve upon here the institutions, both political and religious, in which they had been educated in their native land. They were characterized by great simplicity in their habits. Industry and economy were the prevailing traits of the people, and their plain style of living contributed much to their health and longevity. Even when means afforded opportunity, there was among our fathers less of that false pride which engenders the love of display, which is so prevalent in the present age. They lived more in accordance with the laws of nature, and there is no doubt that there was generally more true happiness among the masses. The present age is without doubt one of great advancement as compared with the earlier ones, but the generation which amassed great fortunes in an hour, rushed as speedily into wild extravagance in speech, deportment, and manner of living, and these things are not yet "fast passing away." We might well retrace some of our steps and sit down humbly at the feet of the fathers, to learn from their lips many a sober and earnest lesson in the way of true and honest living, to hear and heed many a prudent precept to guide us in the paths of true wisdom and understanding.

In looking back over the early history of our town and, in a measure, of the country, it is very natural to inquire what were the existing conditions on the arrival of our forefathers, and what were the natural productions which could afford them temporarily the means of living. The country was called a wilderness, which in one sense was a true designation, but the impression that the surface was entirely covered with an unbroken forest is erroneous. Although a large part was covered with a permanent growth of wood and heavy timber, yet a considerable portion was open land, which had been cultivated by the natives in their rude forms of husbandry from time immemorial, and on the margins of the brooks and rivers a coarse meadow grass grew in abundance, which was at first used for the support of the cattle. The first white men found a variety of wood or timber: four kinds of oak,

white, yellow, black, and red, differing in the leaf, timber, and color; also ash, elm, willow, birch, beech, sassafras, juniper, cypress, cedar, spruce, pines, white and pitch, the latter furnishing turpentine, tar, etc., with other materials for building ships and houses. They found also a variety of wild animals, such as bears, wolves, foxes, several sorts of deer, beavers, otters, martens, wildcats, wood ducks, and both gray and white (red?) squirrels in great abundance, and the old chronicles mention also the flying squirrel. These animals furnished those furs which afforded such a profitable means of trade with the Indians for many years after the earliest settlement. On our shores was found a great variety and abundance of sea fish. One old chronicler mentions that he saw "great store of whales and grampuses, and such abundance of mackerel as astonished him." Codfish were also plentiful, and a fish called a bass, "a most sweet and wholesome fish as I ever did eat, which is altogether as good as our fresh salmon." Plenty of fish called scate by our forefathers and thornback were found, and abundance of lobsters the old chronicler records, "and the least boy in the Plantation may both catch and eat what he will of them. For my own part I was soon cloyed with them, they were so great, and fat, and luscious. I have seen some myself that have weighed sixteen pounds, but others have had divers times so great lobsters as have weighed twenty-five pounds, as they have assured me." The seashore abounded also in shell-fish: clams, quahogs, oysters, and other varieties of excellent quality; and the streams and ponds were supplied with a variety of fresh-water fish. There was a great variety of natural fruits and nuts: strawberries, raspberries, mulberries, plums, currants, huckleberries, gooseberries, chestnuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, butternuts, wild cherries, and grapes hanging on the limbs of the trees in great festoons in the woodlands, with various other small nuts and fruits. The fields were decorated with a fair variety of flowers, and among them were found the single damask rose in bloom, and this must therefore have been native to the country. Wild fowl were found in abundance, to supply food for the table: "partridges larger than those in England, as big as our hens; wild turkeys found in the woods, which are very fleshy and fat, for they have an abundance of food, as strawberries found everywhere in summer, and other berries and fruit." Great flocks of pigeons filled the air in the winter time, wild geese were innumerable, and wild ducks and other sea-fowl filled the ponds, "so that," to use the words of the old chronicler again, "a great part of the winter the planters have eaten nothing but roast meat of divers fowls which they have killed." The early settlers found that in the spring alewives, fish resembling herrings, ran up the brooks and rivers in this town to spawn, and these streams were plentifully supplied with various small fresh-water fish.

Having glanced at the state of the country, it is natural also and may not be out of place to glance at the inhabitants thereof and inquire what was

the character and condition of the natives of those regions on which our forefathers settled. The land on which we of Attleborough now dwell was then the domain of the tribe of Wamsuttamoags. At the time of the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620, the territory they claimed and occupied was called Pawtuxet — Pokanoket — and extended from Mount Hope Bay to Wrentham, including a portion of that ancient town. It probably extended over the whole of the Old Colony and was then governed by the "Grand Massasoit the friend of the English." At the time this town was settled by white men there was no permanent residence of the natives within its borders, though the relics found in various parts of the town turned up by the plowshare and the condition of portions of the soil are indications that formerly Indians had dwelt in certain localities. They had marked trails, and there were places of resort for the purposes of hunting and fishing, places of note and shrines. They struggled over the region occasionally and probably had temporary residences in their accustomed haunts during a few weeks or months in the summer season. Indeed, tradition points to a rocky cave on Mount Hope Hill near the residence of the late George Price as one of these occasional places of habitation. Like all barbarous peoples they changed their habitations from place to place, living in the rudest simplicity and often suffering great hardships as a consequence of their wanderings. "Their shelters," says an old writer, "are small and homely, made with small poles pricked in the ground and so bowed and fastened at the tops and on the sides that they are framed with bowes [boughs] and covered on the east with sedge and with mats; and for their beds they have a mat." These rudely constructed wigwams were but an imperfect protection against the storms of the severe winters. Says the old writer again, in referring to the aborigines: "They are a tall, strong-limbed people, and their color is tawny. They are partially clothed in beasts skins. Their hair is generally black, and cut before like our gentlemen, one lock longer than the rest. For their weapons they have bows and arrows, — some of them headed with bone, and some with brass." Their meats were furnished by such wild game as they could secure with their bows and arrows or by snares; fish supplied a considerable portion of their means of living, and they had the fruits and nuts which the soil produced naturally and abundantly.

The Indians planted corn in the more pliable soils. This was done in the rudest manner by digging small holes in the ground with such unskilfully constructed implements as they could themselves manufacture, and dropping the kernels into them. This "maize" pounded into meal in an awkward way and formed into cakes, which they baked in the ashes or by heated stones, made one of their principal articles of food and was their only kind of meal. Besides the ashes made by annually burning the fields, they manured the corn with fish, when near enough to the seashore to obtain them. In this way they often raised tolerable crops and frequently traded them to the whites,

Sometimes, however, there was a lack, and they themselves would suffer for want of this food. They were a wholly improvident people and often like wild animals in their modes of eating. When there was an abundance they feasted even to gorging themselves, and when there was a scarcity they fasted even to the verge of starvation; but they never learned to provide for possible dearth in the time of plenty. Their other productions were beans, pompions or pumpkins, and squashes, all apparently indigenous. Their cooking was of the simplest — hot ashes, heated stones, and fires upon the ground their means, and roughly made pots and pans of clay their only utensils, for they had no iron until after the advent of the Pilgrims. How they baked clams is known to almost every man, woman, and child on the New England coast to-day. They also baked their beans; while beans and corn boiled together, and seasoned with clams when these could be obtained, constituted that famous dish called succotash, a dish not to be lightly treated even by epicures. For these three dishes, so celebrated not only throughout New England but all over the land, and so welcome to every true son of that eastern soil, wherever he may be, we are indebted to the aborigines.

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mechanical improvements of the white settlers, but had no genius for inventing any for themselves. They did not take kindly to what would elevate them, but unfortunately for themselves they learned with great readiness some of the worst among the bad customs attendant upon civilization and became thereby troublesome to the whites. Many of the Indians were lazy and became drunkards, hung about the settlements, entered the dwellings of the people and stole their goods, and committed many petty depredations. These became such a nuisance that measures were taken to prevent their annoyances. Treaties were made with the sachems on the subject, and laws were enacted to protect the settlers against such intrusions. Plymouth provided "forasmuch as complaint is made that many Indians pass into divers parts of this Jurisdiction, whereby some of the plantations begin to be oppressed by them, it is enacted by the Court that no strange or foreign Indians shall be permitted to come into any part of this Jurisdiction so as to make their residence there; and for that end that notice be given to the several Sagamores to prevent the same."[1] The laws empowered towns to adopt measures to prevent these evils, and it may be seen in the first chapter of this book that our town suffered some annoyances in this way and availed itself of the provisions of the law to prevent their continuance or recurrence.

On these fair domains of the red man, in place of scattered groups of temporary wigwams, now stand thriving cities and villages with thousands of permanent dwellings; instead of the smoke of blazing camp fires rising here and there from forest glade or lakeside clearing, now rises from everywhere the smoke of countless manufactories; where youthful warriors gathered round their aged chief to listen to his words of wisdom or hear him relate the treasured traditions of the tribe, now rise stately halls of learning, where the youths of the passing generations gather to glean stores of wisdom from the accumulated lore of all the ages; and where, in the leafy bowers of nature's build, beneath the moon's pale beams the swarthy lover wooed his dusky mate, now lie our busy streets, and the fair lover woos some blushing maiden 'neath brilliant beams from flaming gas jets or within the searching glances of electric lights. Long since might has claimed the right to the inheritance of the poor Indian, and he has passed on from these charming hilltops and lovely vales to the longed for and, let us hope, happy and never to be disturbed hunting-grounds beyond the grave. For countless centuries these savage races had remained in this their land, roaming over these fields and through these forests, unchanged in their character and habits; but, coming at last in contact with a civilized and intellectual race, they were doomed to perish. They must obey the fixed law of nature and succumb to the superior race. However much we may lament or pity the fate of the red man or listen sadly to the departing footsteps of his people who preceded

[1] See Old Col. Laws, p. 129.

of most fertile farms. The hay crops were enormous, frequently half clover, and there was scarcely space to heap them on the ground; and the grain appeared to be equally abundant in its yield. We bowled swiftly along over roads as smooth and hard as if macadamized and laid out for the most part in straight lines: road-making is not a lost art in that region as it seems to be in ours. We passed through only one village in the entire length of our drive. Its little central common was mostly covered by a shallow pond; and ducks, dogs, and children were making use of it as a general recreation ground in the most cheerful and friendly manner. We caught sight first of the lesser oak, which is visible from a great distance over the surrounding plain, stretching its gaunt and almost leafless branches defiantly toward heaven. Our giants of the forest would be but dwarfs by its side,[1] and it in turn is a pygmy compared with its greater neighbor. The size of that one has not been exaggerated. It would doubtless measure seventy feet around the exposed roots, and the trunk, though increased in size by its ivy covering, looked to be forty feet in circumference some considerable height above the ground. The inside is now filled with rubbish, but the cleared space would seat two dozen people comfortably. The old tree is fast going to decay and falling in several places, though it is propped with strong iron bands. From the inside we could see one huge knot still alive, out of which great leafy branches were growing vigorously — large trees in themselves. The present tenant of the surrounding farm was our guide to this interesting spot upon the property, and he told us that the immediate predecessor of his grandfather upon the place was the Mr. Doggett who put the inscription upon the tree. All traces of the inscription are gone, but a box still remains attached, bearing a request for offerings, not for the Bible Society, but for the "poor widows of the parish." One of us in proof of both general and personal interest in this glorious old monarch of the woods was about to drop in a half-crown when our host interposed, saying that nothing above a shilling was ever expected from any visitor. This was in marked contrast to the owner of our trap, who demanded nearly double the bargained price for its use on our return to the inn where we hired it. We drove back through the softened sunshine, — it is never glaring in England, — thinking if the hedges were turned into stone walls, if the houses were built of timber, and a wooded hill rose here and there, the appearance of the country would be by no means unfamiliar. The emigrants in selecting what is now Attleborough, Mass., for their new home may certainly have been reminded of the scenery of the old home left behind. But beyond a certain general resemblance, which nature furnishes to-day as formerly, all comparison must cease. The

[1] There is an oak in one of the fields along Horn Street, which in miniature resembles this lesser tree. The trunk tapers rapidly upward and the few remaining branches are scraggy, knotted, and gnarled. It has lost its youthful grace and is lean and grim and crazy-looking, like the great Winfarthing trees, which are dying from the top.

new Attleborough is busy, enterprising, progressive — in a word thoroughly alive; the old Attleborougoh is inert, stagnant, dying, with not enough life remaining to be ever again aroused to any degree of bustle and activity. But this is only the result of the natural order of things. The same laws of decadence govern the town, the city, that govern the nation; all rise but to fall in time. The same old processes have been at work there, but the name still remains, and we may be proud that it is one which in ages past became famous, and that our mother town once took high rank among her compeers in promoting and advancing both agricultural and industrial pursuits.

The first inhabitants of our town were a substantial and respectable class of people. They were, like most of the settlers of the other towns of the Old Colony, emigrants from England; seldom any of them were from Scotland and Wales. They were the right men and women to subdue and cultivate a new country and plant the civilization of their native land in this wilderness, to introduce and improve upon here the institutions, both political and religious, in which they had been educated in their native land. They were characterized by great simplicity in their habits. Industry and economy were the prevailing traits of the people, and their plain style of living contributed much to their health and longevity. Even when means afforded opportunity, there was among our fathers less of that false pride which engenders the love of display, which is so prevalent in the present age. They lived more in accordance with the laws of nature, and there is no doubt that there was generally more true happiness among the masses. The present age is without doubt one of great advancement as compared with the earlier ones, but the generation which amassed great fortunes in an hour, rushed as speedily into wild extravagance in speech, deportment, and manner of living, and these things are not yet "fast passing away." We might well retrace some of our steps and sit down humbly at the feet of the fathers, to learn from their lips many a sober and earnest lesson in the way of true and honest living, to hear and heed many a prudent precept to guide us in the paths of true wisdom and understanding.

In looking back over the early history of our town and, in a measure, of the country, it is very natural to inquire what were the existing conditions on the arrival of our forefathers, and what were the natural productions which could afford them temporarily the means of living. The country was called a wilderness, which in one sense was a true designation, but the impression that the surface was entirely covered with an unbroken forest is erroneous. Although a large part was covered with a permanent growth of wood and heavy timber, yet a considerable portion was open land, which had been cultivated by the natives in their rude forms of husbandry from time immemorial, and on the margins of the brooks and rivers a coarse meadow grass grew in abundance, which was at first used for the support of the cattle. The first white men found a variety of wood or timber: four kinds of oak,

white, yellow, black, and red, differing in the leaf, timber, and color; also ash, elm, willow, birch, beech, sassafras, juniper, cypress, cedar, spruce, pines, white and pitch, the latter furnishing turpentine, tar, etc., with other materials for building ships and houses. They found also a variety of wild animals, such as bears, wolves, foxes, several sorts of deer, beavers, otters, martens, wildcats, wood ducks, and both gray and white (red?) squirrels in great abundance, and the old chronicles mention also the flying squirrel. These animals furnished those furs which afforded such a profitable means of trade with the Indians for many years after the earliest settlement. On our shores was found a great variety and abundance of sea fish. One old chronicler mentions that he saw "great store of whales and grampuses, and such abundance of mackerel as astonished him." Codfish were also plentiful, and a fish called a bass, "a most sweet and wholesome fish as I ever did eat, which is altogether as good as our fresh salmon." Plenty of fish called scate by our forefathers and thornback were found, and abundance of lobsters the old chronicler records, "and the least boy in the Plantation may both catch and eat what he will of them. For my own part I was soon cloyed with them, they were so great, and fat, and luscious. I have seen some myself that have weighed sixteen pounds, but others have had divers times so great lobsters as have weighed twenty-five pounds, as they have assured me." The seashore abounded also in shell-fish: clams, quahogs, oysters, and other varieties of excellent quality; and the streams and ponds were supplied with a variety of fresh-water fish. There was a great variety of natural fruits and nuts: strawberries, raspberries, mulberries, plums, currants, huckleberries, gooseberries, chestnuts, walnuts, hazelnuts, butternuts, wild cherries, and grapes hanging on the limbs of the trees in great festoons in the woodlands, with various other small nuts and fruits. The fields were decorated with a fair variety of flowers, and among them were found the single damask rose in bloom, and this must therefore have been native to the country. Wild fowl were found in abundance, to supply food for the table: "partridges larger than those in England, as big as our hens; wild turkeys found in the woods, which are very fleshy and fat, for they have an abundance of food, as strawberries found everywhere in summer, and other berries and fruit." Great flocks of pigeons filled the air in the winter time, wild geese were innumerable, and wild ducks and other sea-fowl filled the ponds, "so that," to use the words of the old chronicler again, "a great part of the winter the planters have eaten nothing but roast meat of divers fowls which they have killed." The early settlers found that in the spring alewives, fish resembling herrings, ran up the brooks and rivers in this town to spawn, and these streams were plentifully supplied with various small fresh-water fish.

Having glanced at the state of the country, it is natural also and may not be out of place to glance at the inhabitants thereof and inquire what was

the character and condition of the natives of these regions on which our forefathers settled. The land on which we of Attleborough now dwell was then the domain of the tribe of Wampanoags. At the time of the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620, the territory they claimed and occupied was called Pawkunawket — Pokanoket — and extended from Mount Hope Bay to Wrentham, including a portion of that ancient town. It probably extended over the whole of the Old Colony and was then governed by the "Good Massasoit the friend of the English." At the time this town was settled by white men there was no permanent residence of the natives within its borders, though the relics found in various parts of the town turned up by the plowshare and the condition of portions of the soil are indications that formerly Indians had dwelt in certain localities. They had planted small tracts; and there were places of resort for the purposes of hunting and fishing, places of nets and snares. They straggled over the region occasionally and probably had temporary residences in their accustomed haunts during a few weeks or months in the summer season; indeed, tradition points to a rocky cave on Mount Hope Hill near the residence of the late George Price as one of these occasional places of habitation. Like all barbarous peoples they changed their habitations from place to place, living in the rudest simplicity and often suffering great hardships as a consequence of their wanderings. "Their shelters," says an old writer, "are small and homely, made with small poles pricked into the ground, and so bound and fastened at the tops, and on the sides they are matted with bows, [boughs] and covered on the roof with sedge and old mats; and for their beds they have a mat." These rudely constructed wigwams were but an imperfect protection against the storms of the severe winters. Says the old writer again, in referring to the aborigines: "They are a tall, strong-limbed people, and their color is tawny. They are partially clothed in beasts skins. Their hair is generally black, and cut before like our gentlemen, one lock longer than the rest. For their weapons they have bows and arrows, — some of them headed with bone, and some with brass." Their meats were furnished by such wild game as they could secure with their bows and arrows or by snares; fish supplied a considerable portion of their means of living, and they had the fruits and nuts which the soil produced naturally and abundantly.

The Indians planted corn in the more pliable soils. This was done in the rudest manner by digging small holes in the ground with such unskilfully constructed implements as they could themselves manufacture, and dropping the kernels into them. This "maize" pounded into meal in an awkward way and formed into cakes, which they baked in the ashes or by heated stones, made one of their principal articles of food and was their only kind of meal. Besides the ashes made by annually burning the fields, they manured the corn with fish, when near enough to the seashore to obtain them. In this way they often raised tolerable crops and frequently traded them to the whites.

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us, we know it was not in the order of Providence that this great continent should be delivered over for all coming ages of time to such wild, wandering tribes, who were incapable of improving the soil on which they trod, thereby to exclude other races of men from its settlement and occupation and to arrest that magnificent march of modern emigration and civilization which is spreading all over this vast territory, a territory capable of supporting hundreds of millions of men and bringing its inexhaustible natural resources into the commerce of the world.

In reviewing the early history of our country, we can but look with profound admiration and reverence upon our "Pilgrim Fathers," those men of lofty principles and stern integrity, who were inspired of God with an unflinching determination to plant and perpetuate free institutions in a free land. They braved the perils of an unknown sea and the greater perils of an unknown continent, with its untried clime and life of danger among hostile savages, to gain for themselves and to bestow upon their children the independence we now enjoy.

Such as these were the men who settled our town, and the passing generations have seen here many worthy sons of these worthy sires. In Massachusetts' great marches of advancement our town kept even pace with every step, until it ranked among the foremost in progress and business enterprise. No town could have a more interesting early history or a longer and more honorable list of useful and distinguished men, among them some famous for their learning and intellectual attainments. So its history ran on to the very end, for now the page of records has no longer a single but a double leaf. At the word of her citizens two towns have been made, both alike springing from the parent stock fully armed and equipped, like Minerva from the brain of her father Jove. These begin each a new and somewhat separate career, but perchance, and let us so hope, only to be again united at no far distant day, then to make a record even more honorable and brilliant than that of the past. Though half-divided in name, the two towns cannot be wholly divided in their history so long as the chief business interest of both remains the same. May this much at least be always true, and if it be so decreed that they shall never be reunited under the ancient name, may the present names ever remain unchanged, and the two towns when classed together be known as "the two Attleboroughs." Then indeed the act of division will no longer be remembered; the granite pillars recently set up and the imaginary lines connecting them and separating the two portions will be forgotten; the "ancient landmarks" only will be recalled, and the territory embraced by them will seem as before an undivided whole; then indeed the two fair records of the future will be read together as one, and all those born within her old-time borders, wherever they may be, may still proudly and gratefully say: "My birthplace is 'the good old town of Attleborough.'"

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APPENDIX.

A VERY short time before the first copies of this book were sent out, as the result of an inquiry relating to a man who was known to have served in the Revolution but whose name could not be found in my lists of the soldiers of that time, I learned that I had either made errors in copying from the muster rolls, or that my accounts of service were incomplete. It was then too late to make changes in or additions to the chapter involved, as it had long been printed. At the earliest possible moment, however, I made inquiries at the State House, and found that I had been guilty of some errors and that there was a considerable incompleteness in the accounts. When I searched the records about 1886, I took the names credited to Attleborough from such volumes of muster and pay rolls as were placed before me, and rested upon the assurance given that I had seen *all* which contained *town* services, whereas it seems to be the case that I saw only about half of them. How such a mistake occurred I cannot say, but I think it is due to the fact that within a few years a most careful examination of all the old rolls has been made for the purpose of preparing a complete alphabetical index of all soldiers and their individual services, and therefore the officials at present in charge of the ancient archives have a much more complete knowledge of these matters than had those of eight or ten years ago. I regret exceedingly that I could not have known of my lack in this regard in time to supply it in the proper place, but as all matters pertaining to the soldiers of those early days are ever increasing in interest and importance, the deficiency should not remain unnoticed; it is only just for me to complete my account of so glorious a record in the only manner possible. The rolls recently examined for the first time are in a measure duplicates of some already given in Chapter V, and of course many names are but repetitions. I, however, found quite a number of new names, and lists containing any such or a service not mentioned before are here given. I think I have now obtained all town services, and that among these lists are to be found the names of all who served during the war. A search through the new index would not, I feel confident, reveal new names, but only the entire service of each person, whether he was credited to the town or not, numbers having served at various times who were not reported, in certain instances, as from their native places. It was not my purpose to enter into such detail, and I have therefore attempted only to carry out the original plan of noting town service. — THE EDITOR.

List of men who marched on the alarm of Bunker-Hill Battle. The record is dated July 5, 1776, and was copied from one of the town books by Harvey Claflin, and certified by him December 30, 1844. See Muster Rolls, vol. 49, p. 84.

Capt. Jacob Ide,
Elisha May,
Ensign Saml Slack,
Benj. Tingley,
Ebenr Tiffany,
Benjn Maxcy,
Amos Read,
Saml Atherton,
James Orne,
Josiah Pidge,
Eliphalet Holmes,
John Bates,
Jacob Bates,
Phineas Claflin,
Nathan Tingley,
Stephen Fuller,
Nathan Bishop,
Samuel Tingley,
William Stanley,
Joel Metcalf,
Jabez Gay,
Nathan Sweetland,
Oliver Blackinton,
Elijah Robinson,
Gideon Barrows,
Samuel Robinson,
Capt. Stephen Richardson,
Capt. Moses Wilmarth,
Lt. Alexander Foster,
Lt. Nathl Bishop,
Nathl Claflin,
Amos Daggett,
Joseph Foster,
Joseph French,
Joseph French, Jr.,
John Fisher,
Archues Hunt (Hewet),
Comfort Moore,
John Martin,
Daniel Martin,
Abel Martin,
Job Martin,
Caleb Parmenter, Jr.,
Thos. Richardson,
John Richardson,

David Huckins,
Aaron Barrows,
Araunah Tingley,
John Draper,
James Pulling,
Geo. Robinson
David Richardson,
Phillip Allen,
Clark Sweetland,
Robert Swan,
Israel Hatch,
William Sweetland,
Amos Ide,
Jeduthan Fuller,

Michael Sweet,
Elijah Barrows,
Elijah Jones,
Elijah Capron,
John Foster,
Abiathar Richardson,
Zephaniah Rose,
Abiel Dunham,
Israel Bates,
Consider Brown,
Sherebiah Cobb,
Benjn Capron, Jun.,
Daniel Carpenter,
Thos. Cooper,

Wyman Richardson,
Benjn Read,
Ebenr Robinson,
Thos Sweet,
William Starkey,
Capt. John Tyler,
Thos Wilmarth, Jr.,
Eliphalet Wilmarth,
David Woodcock,
John Woodcock,
Elisha Wilmarth,
Dan Wilmarth,
Abisha Washburn,
Benoni Wilmarth.

Captain Aaron Guild's company, Colonel Josiah Whitney's regiment, November, 1776. See vol. 19, p. 141, and vol. 18, p. 82.

Timy Freeman,
Jonathan Fuller,
Gideon Stanley,

Samuel Fuller,
Robert Townsend,
Benjn Woodcock,

Ezra Miller,
Comfort Robinson,
Abel Titus.

James Tripp served in Zebedee Redding's company in the same regiment. Vol. 22, p. 112.

On a payroll dated November, 1776, the following names were found, but the date of service was not given. See vol, 2 p. 207.

Elisha May, Capt.,
David Clap, 1st Lt.,
Natll Bishop, 2d Lt.,
Elijah Barrows, } Ser.
Eliphas Day, }
Alexr Keith, }
Ebenr Titus, }
Joseph Stearns, } Cor.
Comfort Ingraham, }
David Lincoln, }
David Huchins, }
Abiathar Shaw, Fifer,
Eliphalet Holmes, Drum,
Wm Boney,
Othniel Blackinton,
John Blackinton,
Wm Blackinton,
Ebenr Bacon,
Moses Bourn,
George Briggs,

Silas Cobb,
Phineas Claflen,
Obadiah Carpenter,
Elisha Capron,
Peter Carpenter,
Thomas Cooper,
Saml Coney,
Joseph Daggett,
Solomon Dunham,
Peter Fisher ? (illeg.)
Bezaleel Field,
Jabez Gay,
Saml Guild,
Ebenr Guild,
Jacob Ide,
George Ide,
Elijah Jones,
Sam Jackson,
Benj. Mowry,
Comfort Moor,
Amos Wilmarth.

Abel Martin,
Wm Newell,
David Pidge,
Wyman Richardson,
Abiathar Richardson,
Michael Riley,
Job Randal,
Samll Russell,
Zebadiah Sweet,
Bowen Sweetland,
Arates Sweetland,
Natll Sweet,
John Thacher,
Josiah Vining,
David ? Woodcock,
Jehu White ?
Dan Wilmarth,
Wm Witherell,
Ebenezer Williams,
Ebenezer Wood,

Captain Hodges' company, Colonel Ebenr Frances' regiment, "for travel into camp and home again one penny per mile, also for one day's pay for every twenty miles travel home from camp and their gun and blankett." December, 1776. See vol. 2, p. 86.

Serg't John Draper,
Cor. Jos'h Foster,
Noah Read,
Eliphalet Gay,

Joel Ellis,
Nathan Hatch,
John Fisher,
Isaac Perry,
Ephm Read.

Zelotus Tiler,
Lamech Blanding,
Jesse Richards,
Wm Tiffany,

Muster roll of regiment commanded by "henary Jackson, Esq." in 1777. Men from town. See vol. 42, p. 215.

Abraham Seney,

Robort hall,
Daniel Sullivan.

frances overton,

The following men from four different companies in Colonel John Daggett's regiment for "filling up the 15 battallions," were enlisted for nine months, and ordered to appear at "Fish kill on hudson" in August, 1778. See vol. 42, pp. 222 and 230, and vol. 28, p. 157.

James Salle (Sadler?),	Abiel Fisher,	Jonathan Fuller,
Samuel Freeman,	Zacheriah Tiffany,	Henry Alexander,
Solomon Field,	Michel Riley,	John Burn,
Bezaleel Field,	Clark Sweetland,	Thomas Freeman,
	Timothy Freeman.	

The following is Captain Enoch Robinson's company which served in Rhode Island in the summer of 1779. See vol. 18, p. 162.

Enoch Robinson, Capt.,	Noah Fuller,	Asa Rodes,
Joseph Hodges, 1st Lt.,	Abiel Freeman,	Silas Richardson,
Jonathan Prat, 2d Lt.,	Darius Fuller,	Stephen Richardson,
Noah Robinson, Ser.	Thomas Grover,	David Robinson,
Josiah Smith, Ser.	Jonathan Hodges,	Samll Stephens,
Solomon Briggs, Ser.	Ebenezer Huchings,	Aruna Smith,
Joseph Titus, Ser.	Daniel Hodges,	Abisha Smith,
Jesse Richards, Cor.	Bethuel Slack,	Michael Sweet,
John Hall, Cor.	Levi Ide,	Robert Skinner,
Nathanael Witherel, Cor.	John Keth,	Timothy Skinner,
Caleb Parmenter, Cor.	Abiel Lane,	Solomon Skinner,
Rial Stanley, Drum,	Will. Makepeace,	Willm Skinner,
Otis Robinson, Fifer,	Elihu More,	Job Sweet,
Peter Blackinton,	Willm Martin,	Abiel Trip,
Jacob Bolkcom,	Amos Martin,	Nathanael Gillson,
Solomon Bates,	John Prior,	George Tucker,
Obadiah Brintnel,	John Pike,	Bethuel Tanner,
Asa Dean,	John Pullen,	Benjn Trow,
Eliab Darby,	John Field,	John Wilkerson,
Benjn Fuller,	Abraham Cummings,	Josiah Bacon,
Samuel Freeman,	Abijah Clap,	John Cobb,
—una (illeg.) Foster,	Stephen Clap,	Achabald Cambel.

Under a Resolve of the General Court of June 9, 1779, there were three nine months' me recorded as from "Attleburg." See vol. 45, p. 282.

Peter Dary,	Aaron Cutting,	Stephen Bloy.

On page 141 of this book are the names of a company of six months' men raised in town in July, 1780. These names are found in vol. 35, pp. 192, 194, and 207, and vol. 25, pp. 240 and 241. The three lists are almost identical. Josiah Bacon and Levi Chaffee appear only twice, and Joseph Baker is written twice on the lists for the same service. Several names are spelt in a different way on each list. These men were in the Eleventh, Thirteenth, and Twenty-fifth Divisions under Ensign Bancroft, Ensign Gilbert, and Captain Jonathan Williams respectively, and marched from Springfield.

The following were nine months' men at Springfield from three different companies in Colonel Dean's regiment. No date found. See vol. 42, p. 224.

George Ide,	John Avery,	William Blackinton,
William Carpenter,	Aaron Cutting,	Obed Robinson,
Isaac Ide,	Nehemiah Bragg,	James Orne,
Sam Standly,	Stephen Bloys,	Peter Dery.

Under a Resolve of the General Court of December 2, 1780, the following men served. See vol. 34, p. 418.

Joseph Churchell,	Peter? (illeg.) Phillips,	Resolved Healey,
Samuel Edwards,	Michael Le Bedle?,	Otis Robinson,
Solomon Briggs,	Manasah Dunham,	Thomas Barden,
Darius Briggs,	Thomas Whitington,	Rean Thibaut,
Ebenr Dunham,	Benjamin Woodcock,	Cuff Mumford (Negro),

Daniel Lemasney,	Jacob Parker,	Nathanael Sweet,
John Pullen,	James Germain,	Joel Blake,
David Dunnells,	London Bucklin,	John Green,
	Timothy Bryon.	

Under a Resolve of December, 1781, are found the following names. See vol. 34, p. 416.

Samuel Edwards,	Solomon Briggs,	Resolved Healey,
Ebenr Dunham,	Thomas Wethington,	Benjamin Woodcock,
Manasah Dunham,	Darius Briggs,	Rean Theabut,
	David Dunnells.	

Vol. 29, p. 114. The following men are credited to the town, but the service is not given: William Carpenter, Capt., Nehemiah Bragg, Capt., Amos Shirtleff, Sergt., William Fisher, John Freeman.

List of men in Captain Stephen Richardson's company, second in Fourth Regiment, "that have been in the foregoing Campains since this Unhappy war Comenced the first was in Roxbury in 1775 for 8 months." See vol. 52, p. 11.

Daniel Bolkcom,	George Neal,	Benjamin Stanley,
Elias Bolkcom,	Thomas Norton,	Nathaniel Sweet,
Aaron Cutting, Jur.,	Hezekiah Peck,	Samuel Tiffany, Jur.,
John Daggett, Jur.,	John Robenson,	John Tiffany, Jur.,
John Drown,	Daniel Richardson,	Noah Tiffany,
Elijah Fisher,	Jeddiah Richardson,	Thomas Tiffany,
Jemas Freeman,	Stephen Richardson, Jur.,	Jemas Tripp,
Lerned Hall,	Benjamin Richardson,	Ebenezer Willmarth,
Comfort Marten,	Seth Richardson, Jur.,	William Woodcock,
	Jonathan Woodcock.	

In the Second Campaign for Cambridge, in 1775, Benjamin Read served "5 months."

Third "Campain was that Caled the 6 weaks Campain at Roxbury in 1775."

Elijah Bolkcom,	John Richardson,	Zachariah Tiffany,
Jesse Daggett,	Thomas Richardson,	David Woodcock, Jur.

Fourth Campaign, twelve months' men in 1776.

Joab Daggett,	Elijah Fisher,	Hosear Tiffany,
John Freeman,	Enoch Fisher,	Thomas Tiffany,
James Freeman,	Rufus Fisher,	Zachariah Tiffany,
William Fisher,	George Neal,	Joseph Tucker,
Abial Fisher,	John Tiffany, Jur.,	Benjamin Read,
	Jonathan Woodcock.	

Fifth Campaign, "the 7 month or Nantasket men in 1776."

Jemas Tripp,	Ebenezer Willmarth,	Benjamin Woodcock, Jur.

Sixth Campaign, five months' men that "went to Yorke in 1776."

Thomas Barden,	Benjamin Richardson,	Amos Starkey,
John Daggett, Jur.,	Seth Richardson,	Noah Tiffany,
Hezekiah Peck,	Nathaniel Robinson,	Thomas Willmarth, Jur.,
John Richardson,	Benjamin Stanley,	David Woodcock,
	John Woodcock.	

Seventh Campaign, "The Dorchister," five months in 1778.

Joseph Foster,	Noah Read, Jur.

Eighth Campaign, "ticontroga men," for three months.

Daniel Bolkcom,	Abraham Minto.

Ninth Campaign, two months' men to "Yorke" in 1776.

Peter Fisher,	Samuel Jackson,	Abiathar Richardson,
David Woodcock, Jur.,	John Marten,	Wyman Richardson,
Elijah Bolkcom,	Vinten Richardson,	Joseph Woodcock, Jur.,
Edward Foster, Jur.,	David Richardson,	Amos Willmarth.

Tenth Campaign, three months at "Howlan's ferry," in 1776–77.

Lieut William Bolkcom,	Benjamin Capron, Jur.,	Joel Fisher,
Elijah Capron,	Jemas Cutting,	Eliphalet Willmarth, Jur.

Eleventh Campaign, "Should have Bin Caled the 5th," Roxbury, for two months.

Benjamin Stanley,	Noah Read, Jur.

Twelfth Campaign, State of Rhode Island in May, 1777. Joseph Capron, Jur., Henry Peck, Benjn Richardson, David Bolkcom.

Thirteenth Campaign, for three years or during the war. Enlisted in 1777. John Freeman, Wm Fisher, Samuel Bently, James Lawd, William M. Elroys.

The names following are taken from a muster roll of the men, enlisted for the "present war" by Captain Jonathan Brown and mustered by the same "since the 6 day of July Last to this day Sept ye 2d 1777." See vol. 42, p. 246.

Nathan Round,	Robert king,	Obadiah Thacher,
Peter Butchell, (?)	Ebenezer Stone,	Abel Titus,
John Williams,	Nathaniel Sweet,	Ephraim keth,
moses hancock,	Thomas Thacher,	Edward hunt,
	Solomon bates.	

In vol. 19, p. 187, Moses Barrows, Obed Thacher, James Tripp, Thomas Thacher, and Ebenr Wilmarth are mentioned as three years' men from "Attleburg," in Colonel H. Jackson's regiment.

Among some men mustered by James Leonard was Levi Everett, "age 17," and the name of Napthali Whitney was found but not his special service.

The above are records of militia service, and chiefly of short expeditions, though there were some terms covering a number of months, and a few enlisted for several years. Quite a number of men who early served in the militia, and some others, later entered the Continental Army. From a list of non-commissioned officers and privates in that army from this State, who enlisted during the years 1777–78–79–80, the names of those credited to this town were taken. All enlisted for three years, or during the war.

Fourth Regiment. Elijah Fisher enlisted for and served three years.

Fifth Regiment. Jonathan Blackinton for three years. Samuel Bently. Discharged. Solomon Bates for three years. Butler Everett for three years. Died. Levi Everett served three years. Eliphalet Gay served nearly three years. Comfort Robinson and Ezra Robinson served three years. Stephen Toby enlisted for the war and served forty-eight months. Silas Wood served sixteen months and twenty-five days, and died.

Eleventh Regiment. William Fisher served one year.

Sixteenth Regiment. Daniel Balcom served about two years and was reported a deserter. Thomas Down served about six months. Samuel Everett enlisted for the war, and Penuel Everett served three years. Randall McAllister, Timothy Melona, Timothy Mixter, and Oliver Puling served nearly three years. Nathaniel Rounds, Zepheniah Rose, Nathaniel Sweet, James Stanford, and John Scott served the full three years. William Straw served forty months. Addin or Aden Stanley, Thomas Thacher, and Ebenezer Wilmarth served three years. James Tripp enlisted for the war and served forty-two months and one day. He is the only one mentioned as choosing the land instead of the money bounty (choice being offered to all), and he received 200 acres.

Timothy Fannington and Israel Woodcock enlisted for three years. They were in what was called Knox's Artificers, the first serving four months, and the latter two months and nine days.

Oliver Pullen, Nathaniel Sweetland, and Aden Stanley are mentioned as enlisting in Sherburne's Regiment for three years. None of them served the full time in it, but are mentioned in the above list as being that length of time in service, though Sweetland is in one place written Sweet.

There are some features of the Revolutionary record so remarkable that I cannot refrain from calling special attention to them. They are possible of belief only when it is remembered that in those "times that tried men's souls" the age limit of military service was of necessity

a very broad one, and that all who could possibly carry a musket, or use any implement of warfare, were allowed to fight for their country, from mere lads of sixteen or seventeen, (perhaps younger), to men far advanced in years. In 1790 the number of inhabitants in our town was 2,166, an increase no doubt of several hundred above the number at the time of the war. By counting the lists printed here and in Chapter V it may be seen that Attleborough is credited with the service of some 1,243 men. Numbers of these of course served repeatedly, but there appear to be the names of very nearly, if not quite, 600 different persons. A few of these are foreign, and some men from other places, no doubt, as in the Civil War, may have enlisted to the credit of the town; but the great majority of names are old, familiar ones, very many of which are still represented in our midst, or have been to within quite recent times. It would seem therefore that about one third of our entire population was actively engaged in the great struggle for independence.

A list of the families which supplied the largest number of soldiers is subjoined. The figures must not be taken as a gauge of the patriotism of these particular examples as compared with others, but only of their relative size, including the various branches. Every family seemed equally inspired with untiring ardor and burning zeal, and nobly devoted its all to the common cause, every male, almost without exception, at one time or another answering to the colonies' calls to arms: —

Daggett, 21; Richardson, 18; Robinson, 17; Fuller, 14; Read, Tiffany, and Wilmarth, 13; Carpenter, 12; Barrows, and Woodcock, 11; Blackinton, Fisher, Ide, and Tyler, 10; Bates, Capron, Freeman, Stanley, Sweetland, and Sweet, 9; Foster, 8; Bishop and Martin, 7; Titus, Briggs, Bolkcom, Everett, and Gillson or Jillson, 6; Cummings, Draper, French, Starkey, and Thacher, 5; while numerous others sent four, three, or two members, as the case might be.

ERRATA.

In Note 2 on page 134 for p. 189 read 187.

On page 135 for Lemuel Everet read Samuel Everet, and for Wm. Pilse read Wm. Pike. On the return of that company when service was over Lemuel Whiting was reported dead, and John Tyler, sergeant, appeared to be reduced to the ranks. Joel Read and Joseph Stearns were sergeants by promotion, and Benj. Stanley and Benj. Richardson corporals in the same manner. On the same page in the account of minute-men the date should be April 19, 1775, instead of January 5, 1776. These men marched on the Lexington alarm. The date given was that of the "return" of service.

On page 136 for Elisha Daggett, sergeant, read Elihu Daggett. He was also adjutant of the Fourth Regiment, and served elsewhere.

On page 139 after Eliphalet Holmes Daniel Lane should be inserted. He was a sergeant in the company.

On page 140, in Notes 2 and 3, for vol. 4 read vol. 2.

On page 175 for $200,000 read $200.

On page 643, fourth line, Mary Guild should be Mary Gould.

On page 661, last paragraph, for Ireland read England.

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